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Gov. George A. Ramsdell
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G. A. Ramsdell

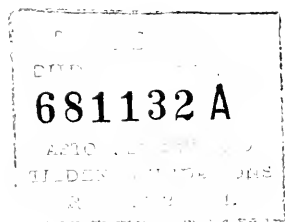
NEW HAMPSHIRE.

MESSAGES
OF
GOV. GEORGE A. RAMSDELL,
1897--1898

WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES AND
OCCASIONAL PAPERS.



NASHUA, N. H. :
COLE, THOMPSON & CO., PRINTERS AND BOOK BINDERS,
1900.



Gov. RAMSDALL was inaugurated January 6th, 1897, and delivered the following

MESSAGE.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

I assume the office of chief magistrate with a deep sense of responsibility to the people of the state, and to Him of whose throne "Justice and Judgment are the habitation."

We take up the work of our respective branches of the government when the general depression in business suggests and demands the utmost economy in the administration of affairs consistent with the good name and permanent welfare of the state.

FINANCIAL.

The finances of the state are in a satisfactory condition. Our total indebtedness at the highest point, June 1, 1872, —after the assumption of a large part of the town and city war expenses, amounting to \$2,206,100, was \$4,138,124.16.

The net indebtedness June 1, 1896, including the liability of the state for all trust funds in its possession, was \$1,827,741.37, showing a reduction of the debt in twenty-four years of \$2,310,382.79.

This reduction of the debt has been effected notwithstanding the large outlay for buildings erected upon land to which the state for the most part has a legal title. The reduction of the debt for the last fiscal year was \$198,559.28.

The commendable act of the last legislature in reducing the tax on general savings bank deposits from one per cent. to three fourths of one per cent., and remitting the entire tax upon such amounts as are loaned upon real estate in New Hampshire, at a rate not exceeding five per cent., together with a shrinkage of the tax occasioned by large withdrawals on the part of depositors during the past two or three years, has resulted in a serious loss to the towns and cities of the state in what is called the savings bank tax.

That portion of tax paid by savings banks on account of the deposits owned by non-residents by statute, constitutes a literary fund which is annually divided among the towns for the benefit of the public schools. The amount received by towns and cities on account of the literary fund has fallen off in about the same ratio as the amount received under the general distribution of the savings-bank tax.

In view of these facts, I recommend the legislature to authorize a state tax for the years 1898-'99 of \$400,000 instead of the tax of \$500,000 which has been annually granted for the past eight years.

In addition to the tax which is levied directly upon the towns and cities, the state has an annual income, of which that portion of the railroad tax retained in the treasury is the principal item, which it is estimated will amount to

\$175,000 as long as the present state revenue laws are in force.

Only \$150,000 of the indebtedness of the state will annually mature for some time to come.

I am of the opinion that the bonds maturing in 1897-'98, together with all other necessary drafts upon the treasury during that time, can be paid out of funds available for those years.

If the same cannot be done during the years immediately succeeding, the financial affairs of the state will still be in good condition so long as there is no increase of debt.

While the public debt is still large, it must be borne in mind that within a few years there have been erected a state prison ample enough for the present and prospective wants of the state, at a cost of \$234,973.06; buildings, including apparatus, at Plymouth for the accommodation of the normal school costing \$75,998.96; a state library building at a cost of \$313,793.39; the soldiers' home buildings at Tilton, costing \$50,000; and the buildings of the College of Agriculture and the Meehanic Arts at Durham, at a cost of \$150,000; additions to the buildings at the insane asylum, at a cost of \$38,000; all of the most modern and substantial character, and the aggregate cost of which (\$862,765.41) represents nearly one half of the present indebtedness of the state.

I am not aware of any reasonable demand that can be made for public buildings, except in connection with the asylum for the insane.

For an exhaustive statement of the financial condition of the affairs of the state reference can be had to the last

annual report of the treasurer, and to the previous reports therein referred to.

The evidences of returning business prosperity^{*} are multiplying in every direction, and it is reasonable to hope that a recovery from the depressed financial condition which has rested upon the entire country has commenced and will continue without interruption, and that our state will in the future have the ability to do, to a considerable extent, what will tend to develop every interest and section of our domain.

It will not, of course, be the part of wisdom to withhold support from any of the institutions which the state has founded and fostered, nor any of the causes which the state has, after mature deliberation, aided; but the utmost care should be exercised, especially during a period which we hope is one of transition, that the state's money is carefully expended.

In order that each senator or member of the House may act understandingly upon bills making drafts upon the treasury, which will come before them for consideration, from time to time, I recommend an early examination of the acts of preceding legislatures by which annual or standing appropriations have been made and which are now in force.

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT.

The Australian ballot law enacted by the legislature of 1891, has been in operation a sufficient time to show that it fails to accomplish all that was anticipated, and some most serious defects have become apparent.

It is estimated that at least five per cent. of the ballots cast under this law at the recent election were rejected by reason of imperfect or erroneous marking.

The testimony of those having charge of ballots upon election day is unanimous that names at the head of the ticket are much more generally marked than those at the end; that voters apparently under the system of a cross for each name, become indifferent, confused, or wearied before the long list of names is examined, especially in cases where national, state, and city elections are concurrent.

I recommend an examination of the form of ballot used in other states and passing under the general name of the Australian ballot. Some of these are a great improvement upon that in use in our own state.

An arrangement by which the individual can vote his straight party ticket by making one cross would seem to remedy the most prominent evil in the system as we have used it. In that connection provision could easily be made by which a voter could substitute a name for any nominee upon his regular ticket.

AGRICULTURE.

The 29,151 farms of New Hampshire valued at \$66,162,160, affording employment to 42,670 people, yielding an annual product valued at \$13,761,050, represent the agriculture of the state which, in common with other industries, is suffering from the general financial depression.

The general condition of agriculture in the state as compared with the condition two years ago, calls for no

special mention beyond the fact that there is increased evidence of thrift and advanced methods in those sections adapted to the use of improved machinery and accessible to market, while the remote sections with rocky and sterile soil are tending towards forest growth.

The state board of agriculture is contributing to the prosperity of this great industry by extensively advertising the desirable features of New Hampshire thereby securing the re-occupancy of abandoned farms and developing the summer boarding interest; supervising the license and sale of commercial fertilizers, in the enforcement of dairy and other laws, in securing legitimate legislation, and in educational work.

The grange, with state, county, and 219 local organizations, has become an influential agency in New Hampshire, and an important educational and social factor in advancing the interests of husbandry, in relieving farm life of its isolation and farmers of discontent. The co-operative efforts of the board of agriculture and the grange have been highly successful in this direction. The state dairymen's association and state horticultural society, recently organized by the state, are promoting the interests of their respective lines, and by annual exhibitions are contributing to the excellence of New Hampshire dairy and fruit produce.

No disease has affected the flocks and herds of the state to a greater extent than is common to such animals. Bovine tuberculosis has been much discussed and prevails among the herds of this and various foreign countries. Its presence causes serious loss to stock owners and danger to human health under certain conditions. The dis-

ease is largely preventable by sanitary precaution and its suppression depends in a great degree upon the adoption of proper sanitary measures. Ventilation, sunlight, exercise, and judicious feeding are among the measures as essential in its suppression as destroying diseased animals.

The state board of cattle commissioners has pursued a conservative policy, but neglected no legitimate demand for inspection. The report of the commissioners will show 4,500 cattle inspected; 560 tuberculous animals destroyed, for which one half the health value was paid, as provided by law, calling for an expenditure of \$16,000 during the past two years. In the work of the commission much importance has been attached to the advocacy and enforcement of preventative measures. It is evident that progress has been made in the suppression of this disease in the state, and that a continuance of intelligent, conservative action along similar lines will result in reducing the disease in the most practical manner. The payment of one half the health value for diseased animals destroyed is regarded as a just and equitable provision, and I have no change to recommend in the present law.

GOOD ROADS.

This subject is attracting attention not only in our own state but throughout the entire country. Very much can be said in favor of substantial outlays upon the great highways of the state as well as the roads which accommodate our sparsely settled sections. With a large outlay of money in this direction New Hampshire might be made into one grand park, attracting summer visitors and summer boarders in almost unlimited numbers. But the

time has not yet come for a state commission to improve our highways. For the present these improvements, for the most part, must be left with the towns and cities.

I recommend the usual appropriations for repairs upon highways in the northern portion of the state, believing that the money heretofore expended in that locality has been prudently and advantageously used and resulted in positive gain to the state.

OUR FORESTS.

The work of the forestry commission has been carried on during the past two years with due diligence and the report of the commissioners will inform you in detail of what has been accomplished. The importance and necessity of the preservation of the forest cover, so far as it is compatible also with wise utilization of the forest product, will commend themselves to the public at large; while the economy and efficacy of the work already done will still further emphasize the desirability of its continuance. In a state where the natural resources are no more extensive than they are within our borders, it behooves us to husband those which we possess with a due regard to the future as well as the present; and your collective judgment will doubtless deal with this matter as it best deserves, bearing in mind the fact that whatever tends to make our state attractive to parties desiring some escape from more densely populated sections, and whatever tends to hold or increase the water flow in our streams, must of necessity be of more than temporary benefit to the entire state.

EDUCATION.

The subject of popular education is one of continual interest and importance. All measures affecting the in-

terests of the common schools should receive most careful attention and thoughtful consideration. It is highly desirable that the means and agencies designed for educating our future citizens should be perfected so far as is feasible.

An increasing interest in educational affairs is shown by larger demands upon the superintendent to address the people on educational themes, by the larger number of educational organizations, by greater care and activity on the part of school officers, by more largely attended school meetings.

Especial effort has been put forth to reach and aid the smaller towns through the day institutes to which the citizens have been especially invited.

There are signs that the standard of qualifications of teachers is rising. The state certification of teachers through examinations conducted by the department of public instruction, though entailing much labor and care, directly tends to elevate the standard of requirements for teachers. The various county associations of teachers, largely formed through the instrumentality of this department and directly aided by it, each holding several meetings during the year, the numerous institutes adapted to all grades and conditions of schools, the excellent summer institute free to all teachers of the state, serve to improve the teachers and also to instruct the people by giving an intelligent insight into school affairs.

The importance of skilled supervision of schools is gradually attracting deserved attention and in better times more and more the larger towns and groups of towns may be expected to employ superintendents as executive officers in the management of their schools.

To meet more adequately present conditions, a revision of the laws relating to attendance of scholars and to truancy seems advisable. The present laws are not wholly clear or satisfactory in practice.

On the whole, it may be said that the educational affairs of the state are in a prosperous condition and that the general tendency is in the right direction.

Complete information regarding the schools of the state will be furnished in detail in the forthcoming report of the superintendent of public instruction.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MECHANIC ARTS.

The New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, removed from Hanover and established at Durham by the legislature of 1891, is doing a work creditable to the college and to the state.

The state has advanced for buildings and equipments \$150,000, but the college has resources independent of the state, by which its perpetuity is guaranteed. The state holds in trust the proceeds of the original gift from the United States to the amount of \$80,000, the interest of which is annually available to the college, and by a more recent act of congress the college receives a large annual appropriation from the general government. The Benjamin Thompson legacy of something less than \$400,000, now in the possession of the state, with an increment of four per cent. compound interest, will be available in 1910, and place the college upon a firm foundation.

The college needs and should have, in addition to what has already been done, a moderate appropriation until the

Thompson fund becomes available, after which the college will be able to take care of itself.

The impression which prevails in some quarters that the institution is simply an agricultural college is erroneous. While it furnishes an abundant opportunity to pursue a four years' course in agriculture, a two years' course in agriculture (as provided by the last legislature), and other courses in the same department, it also in the department of the mechanic arts furnishes an opportunity to students who desire to pursue a full course in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, or technical chemistry, with general courses in both departments. As I close this message, the catalogue of the college for 1896-'97 has come to hand. I call your attention to the same as to the work of the institution.

MILITARY AFFAIRS.

The advance sheets of the adjutant-general's report, dated October 1, 1896, and now in the hands of the printer, have been submitted to me. It is an exhaustive statement of the condition of the National Guard, and worthy of a careful perusal. The need of well organized and disciplined state troops was never more apparent than at the present time, and it is fortunate that it can be affirmed of our National Guard that it was never in better condition.

The revised register of the soldiers and sailors in the War of the Rebellion has been completed by the adjutant-general and copies forwarded to each town and city in the state, each public library, and each post of the Grand Army of the Republic, in conformity to the law of 1895.

This work is a monument to the industry and ability of its author; in value it is not exceeded by any publication issued by authority of the state. Copies not already disposed of are in the hands of the trustees of the state library to be sold at the price of six dollars.

I concur in the recommendation of the adjutant-general that honorably discharged sailors and soldiers of the state of New Hampshire should be allowed to purchase the book at the uniform rate of three dollars.

You will observe by the report of the adjutant-general that the department has been obliged to carry over from one year to another some unpaid bills. This state of affairs has resulted as I understand it, from the fact that bills for the permanent improvement of the camp ground have been paid out of the general appropriation for the National Guard, which has not been large enough to meet current expenses of the department and improvement at the camp ground, for which no special appropriation has been made. This is a matter which should receive your early attention.

Attention is directed to the reports of the adjutant-general and inspector-general.

SAVINGS BANKS.

I have examined the advance sheets of the report of the bank commissioners and fully concur in the suggestions therein made. The printed report will soon be in your hands for examination.

The number of banks under injunction has largely increased within the last two years.

It is a matter of congratulation that dishonesty on the part of officials has contributed so small an amount to the present condition of things; that while we have many savings banks unable, at present at least, to do business, and some that are insolvent, the majority of our savings banks find no difficulty in meeting reasonable calls for money by depositors.

It was not the purpose of the state in chartering savings banks that they should be used as banks of discount and deposits therein made subject to withdrawal on short notice, and it is unfortunate that depositors have made unusual calls upon the banks at times when the general business of the country has been and is depressed and the money market in an unsettled condition.

The present statute regulating the investments of savings banks, and which has been in force four years has prevented unwise investments since the passage of the act.

The amendments to the laws regulating taxation of deposits in savings banks as made at the last session, seem to operate fairly between the state and all other parties concerned.

RAILROADS.

Since the last meeting of the general court the Boston & Maine and the Concord & Montreal railroads have taken advantage of authority granted by the legislature, and the former road has taken a lease of the latter with all its branches. The length of the lease and others heretofore made, amounts in each case to practical consolidation, and apparently this has become the settled policy of the state as to railroads.

The statute authorizing these unions seem to have been carefully drawn, but the strongest guaranty that the rights of the people will not be invaded lies in the fact that the state and the railroads have a common interest; that whatever will tend to develop the prosperity of the former, must necessarily bring good returns to the latter; that good road-beds, ample terminals, and low freights and fares will as surely increase the prosperity of the state as they will bring large returns to the corporations acting as common carriers.

For a detailed report of the condition of our roads you are referred to the exhaustive report of the board of railroad commissioners.

FIRE INSURANCE.

The last annual report of the insurance commissioner was made May 1, 1896, and contains a large amount of information upon this important subject. By it we learn that "nearly all the fire insurance companies that left the state in 1895 have returned and many others with them, and they are still coming"; that our domestic companies stand so well with their home patrons that considerably over one third of all the risks written in the state in 1895 were placed in three of our stock companies; that the insurance capital of the state has been increased during the year covered by the report \$100,000; that the valued-policy law is satisfactory to the insured, and that its general adoption in the state has wrought no harm to the insurance companies.

FIDELITY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE.

The business transactions of companies doing business under this head, which includes accident, burglary, em-

ployer's liability, fidelity, plate glass, steam, steam boiler, surety, and title insurance, is somewhat larger than the previous year.

Corporations and individuals requiring bonds of officers and employees are discriminating in favor of the bonds of strong fidelity companies as against the personal bond of individual sureties.

LIFE INSURANCE.

The number of life insurance companies doing business in the state remains the same as at the beginning of the year, thirty-two in number.

FRATERNAL ASSESSMENT ASSOCIATIONS,

Fraternal Benefit Associations.

Under this and similar heads, the insurance commissioner has been called upon to decide many delicate questions, which he seems to have done to the satisfaction of all reasonable parties.

TEMPERANCE.

The immoderate use of intoxicating liquors being confessedly the cause of a large part of the pauperism and crime with which the state is afflicted, and the moderate use naturally leading to the immoderate use, the subject of temperance is one of deep concern to the public. Some forty years ago a prohibitory law was placed upon our statute books. The law has been enforced in New Hampshire, as in other states, in localities where a decided public sentiment has demanded it, and can now be enforced wherever the resident population desire it.

In our smaller towns, and perhaps one half our territory, the law is either enforced or sales are made with such secrecy as to preclude any large consumption; in some of our larger towns the law is enforced, but in others little attempt is made in that direction.

Within the past few years the policy of restricting instead of prohibiting the sale seems to have been adopted in our cities. This, of course has been done without authority of law, but it has resulted in reducing the number of places where liquor is sold, and probably the total amount consumed.

If any alteration or amendment of our present law against the sale of intoxicating liquors is proposed the present session, only one question can properly arise: Will such alteration or amendment advance or retard the cause of temperance in our state?

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

This institution, which was originally a private corporation, has by legislation become substantially a state institution and ranks, in the estimation of those competent to judge, as one of the best asylums in the United States.

While the asylum holds in trust funds to a considerable amount, the cost of the buildings has been paid out of appropriations made by the state.

The number of patients has recently been largely increased by the transfer from county almshouses and other places of detention of persons found to be insane and proper subjects of treatment at the asylum.

The present structures are sufficient for the comfortable accommodation of 350 patients, while the present number

of inmates is 426. Of this number all but seven or eight have been committed from our state, no patients from abroad having recently been received.

If the work of the commission of lunacy is to be continued and the insane inhabitants of the state are to receive asylum treatment, additional buildings must be erected.

I recommend a careful consideration of the report of the trustees and the officers of the asylum, and of any request which may be made for an appropriation for buildings which can be granted without interfering with the economical suggestions already made in this message.

You may find that it will be possible to make an appropriation, a fraction of which shall be paid during each of the next three or four years.

STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

The number of inmates December 30, 1896, was 147, the largest number in the history of the institution, which was never in better condition. A good teaching force has always been employed, rendering it possible for these wards of the state, if so inclined, to obtain a good English education.

From a letter recently received from the superintendent I infer that only one death has occurred in the institution during the past year. He writes: "No serious sickness the past year. One discharged boy came home (as he called the school) to die. He died the 16th of last February. He was an excellent young man. He had a comfortable home in Boston, but preferred to die at the school."

Having served for several years as president of the board of trustees I feel qualified to affirm that the sentiment expressed by this young man is entertained by large numbers of those who have been inmates of the school. It is not uncommon to find young men and men of middle age, who at some time have been at the school, now occupying positions of responsibility and trust.

The report of the superintendent is now in press, and will soon be laid before you for examination.

NORMAL SCHOOL.

This institution is in a prosperous condition, annually furnishing the state with a considerable number of thoroughly trained teachers.

The efficient management of the school under Dr. Rounds will doubtless be continued by his successor, who comes to the discharge of his work with the highest recommendations.

THE STATE PRISON.

The financial affairs of the prison are in a prosperous condition. Under the present contract for the labor of the prisoners all expenses of the institution, including salaries of officers, have been paid out of the proceeds of the labor of the convicts.

SOLDIERS' HOME.

The establishment of the soldiers' home at Tilton, though somewhat delayed, is proving a blessing to the veterans of the army and navy, who seek its protection and care.

†

The hospital building erected by means of an appropriation made at the last session of the legislature, enables the management of the home to treat the sick and badly disabled soldiers and sailors as could not be done without it. The number of patients needing such treatment is of course annually increasing.

The general government allows the state one hundred dollars per year for each soldier and sailor admitted to the home, and such an appropriation should be made annually by the legislature as will enable the board of managers to properly care for the disabled men who have such large claim upon the state.

STATE LIBRARY.

The state library building, erected at a cost of somewhat more than \$300,000, was dedicated on the 8th day of January, 1895, with appropriate ceremonies, and the state library was soon after transferred to its new quarters, which are commodious and permanent.

Under date of December 1, 1896, the trustees of the library have made their biennial report which is accompanied by the report of the state librarian made to the trustees, dated August 1, 1896. Both reports are worthy of careful perusal, as they furnish the information necessary to a good understanding of the situation, condition and needs of the state library.

The personal inspection which you will undoubtedly make at an early day, renders it unnecessary for me to speak at length of the building, the library, or its general management.

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In making appropriations for the future the needs of the library, which is now substantially accommodated and most creditable to the state, should be carefully considered.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION.

The fish and game commission continue to do a good work. The distribution of fishes in the waters of the state has increased until it amounts annually to several millions of the various species of trout.

While the work of the commission results in an increase of our food supply, and adds to the sources of recreation which our people enjoy, it is also one of the agencies by which our state is becoming more attractive to visitors.

There are now in the state eleven hatcheries. In the opinion of those competent to judge, the number is larger than the necessities of the work require.

Recent legislation for the better protection of deer and moose, coupled with the act authorizing the employment of detectives by the fish and game commissioners, has resulted in an increase of these animals. Deer have been seen in most of our towns the past year.

The report of the commission will soon be distributed and contains valuable recommendations.

STATE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LUNACY.

This board has been in existence but a few years. By an amendment to the law creating it, passed by the legislature in 1891, the board was authorized to transfer any indigent insane person from county farms and other places

of detention to the insane asylum for remedial treatment. The cost of supporting such patients at the asylum for the year ending June 1, 1896, was \$16,688.16, and the expense is increasing as the number of this class of patients at the asylum grows larger.

It is the purpose of the law, as I understand it, to transfer to the asylum only such persons as can be treated with reasonable hope of substantial mental improvement, and it follows as a matter of course that great care should be exercised in the selection of proper subjects for treatment.

Good results have thus far followed the creation of this board.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The state board of health continues its well directed efforts to improve the sanitary condition of our towns and cities. Considering the large temporary addition to our population during the summer season, it is a matter of consequence to have it understood that the healthfulness of our summer resorts is, to a large extent, guaranteed by the existence of a state board of health.

The expense to the state of the board seems to be warranted by the results produced.

LABOR.

By act of the legislature of 1893, a bureau of labor was established. I have not had time to examine into the work done in this department during the past four years, but from the fact that competent men have been at its head, I infer that its work has been profitable.

FAST DAY.

The observance of Fast day, in accordance with the design of the worthy men by whose efforts a day was originally set apart for special fasting, humiliation and prayer, by the governor, with assent of the council, having ceased, I recommend that Fast day be abolished as a legal holiday, and the words "Fast day" be stricken out of the statutes wherever they occur, and other amendments made necessary to the practical abolition of Fast day.

MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

I desire to call the attention of the legislature to the fact that New Hampshire stands practically alone in having no statute regulating the practice of medicine and surgery, and recommend the enactment of a law by which none but men and women reasonably well educated and having a good knowledge of medicine and surgery shall be allowed to practice in this state.

If there is no satisfactory tribunal now in existence, by which the qualification of applicants to practice can be fairly determined, the legislature can easily create one.

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION.

This board appointed under the law of 1895 has made a report which will soon be distributed. I have not had time to familiarize myself fully with the work of this commission, and without special comment would call your attention to the report.

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES.

I am not aware that any considerable number of amendments to the statutes of the state are needed. Statutes

with which the people have long been familiar should not be changed without good reason.

My attention has been called to a few instances in which it seems that changes might be made to advantage.

As our laws governing the distribution of intestate estates upon the decease of a husband leaving a widow and one child now stand, the widow receives but one third of the estate and the child two thirds. I recommend an amendment by which the widow, whenever she is the mother of the surviving child, shall receive one half of the estate.

I also recommend an amendment of the statutes, by which the age of consent, as it is termed, shall be raised from thirteen and fourteen years respectively to sixteen years.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I would say, that while every session of the legislature brings to its members questions of importance to the people of the state, I can see no reason why the business of this session cannot be properly considered and an adjournment made at a reasonably early day.

The Executive was supported during his administration by the following councilors:

First District, Hon. JOSEPH O. HOBBS, North Hampton.

Second District, Hon. ALLEN N. CLAPP, Manchester.

Third District, Hon. GEO. W. CUMMINGS, Franconstown.

Fourth District, Hon. WALTER S. DAVIS, Hopkinton.

Fifth District, Hon. CHARLES F. PIPER, Wolfborough.

He also had the valuable assistance of

HON. EZRA S. STEARNS, Secretary of State.

COL. SOLON A. CARTER, State Treasurer.

HON. EDWIN G. EASTMAN, Attorney General.

Upon assuming the duties of his office Gov. Ramsdell appointed the following members of his personal military staff.

Augustus D. Ayling, Maj.-Gen. and Adj.-Gen., Concord.

Jerry P. Wellman, Brig.-Gen. and Insp.-Gen., Keene.

George E. Anderson, Brig.-Gen. and Q. M.-Gen., Nashua.

Frank P. Maynard, Brig.-Gen. and Com.-Gen., Claremont.

John H. Andrews, Brig.-Gen. and J. A.-Gen., Manchester.

Fred S. Towle, Brig.-Gen. and Sur.-Gen., Portsmouth.

William D. Swart, Col. and A. D. C., Nashua.

A. Crosby Kennett, Col. and A. D. C., Conway.

Wm. B. Rotch, Col. and A. D. C., Milford.

William A. Barron, Col. and A. D. C., Carrol.

Major Edgerly, of the regular army, who had been on duty in connection with the National Guard of the state for some time, was commissioned as Assistant Inspector General and served as a member of the staff.

Among the noticeable features of the administration outside of the raising of the regiment for the Spanish war, may be mentioned a large reduction of the state debt, the appointment of Hon. Lewis W. Clark, Chief Justice, to succeed Hon. Alonzo P. Carpenter, deceased, and the appointment of Hon. Isaac N. Blodgett, Chief Justice, at the close of Judge Clark's term, and the selection of Hon. Robert J. Peaslee and Hon. John E. Young as Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the state.

At the close of Gov. Ramsdell's term of office he made a communication to the newly elected legislature as follows:

MESSAGE.

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN GENERAL COURT CONVENED:

The war with Spain, commenced, carried on, and brought to a successful termination during the past year, seems to warrant a departure from recent customs and to call for a communication from the retiring executive.

On the second day of April last the president of the United States made a call for 125,000 volunteers. The quota for New Hampshire was fixed at one regiment, to be armed and equipped for immediate duty in the field.

After consultation with the honorable council, I decided that, as there were sufficient available funds in the treasury, it would not be necessary to call an extra session of the legislature in order to meet the necessary expense to be incurred in fitting out the regiment.

The treasurer of the state consented to honor the request of the governor and council, and to pay the amount of the expense authorized by them, and to carry the same as a claim against the general government and as a part of the assets of the state.

Accompanying the president's call was a suggestion that members of the National Guard should be taken as volunteers, in preference to others who might be ready to enter the public service.

Our National Guard, through their respective regimental commanders, Cols. Robert H. Rolfe, Jason E. Tolles, and Walter W. Scott, made tender of their services.

It was understood at the time of the call that one of our regiments of eight companies would fill the requisition, and the Third Regiment, whose commander, Robert H. Rolfe, was the senior colonel in our brigade, was selected as the regiment with which to fill the quota. Subsequently the term regiment was construed by the general government to mean a body of men composed of twelve companies, each company consisting of eighty-one enlisted men, with the usual number of officers.

By virtue of authority reposed in the governor of the state, two companies were temporarily detached from the First Regiment, and the same number from the Second Regiment, and made parts of the regiment with which to fill the quota of the state.

About five hundred national guardsmen, in service at the time of the call, became volunteers in our war regiment. The twelve companies were recruited to the required number by men who had seen service in the National Guard, and by others who joined the National Guard in order that they might become members of the First New Hampshire Regiment in the war with Spain.

The regiment went into camp at Concord, May 2, and left the state for Camp Thomas, Ga., May 17. New

Hampshire was one of the first states, if not the first, to send its full quota into the field.

The amount of cash paid by the treasurer, at the request of the governor and council, on account of the organization of the regiment, was \$58,426.48.

Under the second call of the president, the state was required to furnish three hundred and eighteen additional men. These men were furnished by a detail of officers from the regiment, who came to the state for the purpose, and were distributed among the twelve companies of the existing regiment, making its maximum strength 1,327 officers and men.

Prior to the first call of the president, the National Guard had been ordered into camp at Concord the 18th day of June, but in consideration of the fact that so large a number of our National Guard would at that time be in the United States service, I decided to vacate the order for camp, and did so by proclamation dated May 24. By reason of this order there remains in the treasury \$23,341.45 of the annual appropriation for the maintenance of the National Guard.

As the summer was drawing to a close, serious questions arose as to the sanitary condition of Camp Thomas. In obedience to the wish of the people of the state generally, an attempt was made to ascertain the health conditions surrounding our volunteers in the field. Councilor George W. Cummings visited the camp, and as a result of his visit movements were organized to bring home all sick and disabled soldiers, the general government providing the means of transportation and its officers co-operating in every way.

The number of our citizens, physicians, and others aiding in this most creditable work is so large that I cannot enumerate them in this connection. The Margaret Pillsbury Hospital and the Women's Hospital at Concord; the Elliot Hospital, the Hospital of the Sacred Heart, the Notre Dame at Manchester; the Cottage Hospital at Portsmouth; the Cottage Hospital at Exeter; the Elliot Hospital at Keene; the Cottage Hospital at Laconia; the Cottage Hospital at Claremont opened their doors to these returning soldiers, nearly all of whom were prostrated with typhoid fever.

The passage of time has fully justified the vigorous policy by which these men were brought home. In all, two hundred and twenty men received treatment in the hospitals of the state, and four at the City Hospital at Boston.

The small death rate among the soldiers in our hospitals testifies to the efficiency with which the men were cared for. No agreement was made with the hospitals as to charges, as it was impossible to make estimate in advance of actual treatment. It is expected that the care and nursing of our men prior to the mustering out of the regiment will be paid by the general government. These charges amount to \$9,664.24, and specifications have been forwarded to the proper department at Washington. But in order that the management of the hospitals might know with whom they were dealing, and in order that every returning soldier in need of hospital treatment could have it, with the advice of the council, I undertook to pledge the credit of the state to meet all these expenses, provided they were not paid out of the treasury of the United States.

Very soon after the departure of the regiment for the South, an association was organized, known as the "New Hampshire Soldiers' Aid Society," with a board of nine managers and other officers. Although the governor and his five councilors were members of the board of managers, the affairs of the society were carried on independently of state authorities. This society collected by voluntary subscription \$4,984.91. All cases of need upon the part of families of soldiers in the field, so far as they came to the knowledge of the officers of the society, were met and relieved. Several hundred dollars were sent to the regiment and used in the purchase of supplies for the hospital, in addition to what was furnished by the medical department of the army. The entire expense of the relief trains sent to meet returning soldiers, and afterwards the regiment was paid by the society. The comparatively small amount of funds remaining in the treasury will be judiciously used by the board of managers.

Our regiment, after a service of three months and fifteen days in camp at Chickamauga Park, Ga., the most trying service the soldier is called upon to endure, but in which its officers and men bore themselves in such manner as to reflect credit upon the state, returned to camp at Concord, and on the 31st day of October were mustered out of service.

By General Order No. 13, dated Nov. 1, 1898, the two companies temporarily detached from the First and Second Regiments were assigned to their former places, so that at the present time our National Guard has the same regimental organization that it had before the formation of the First Regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers in the war with Spain.

In answering the calls of the president, and in attempting to maintain the good name of the state, I have been greatly assisted by the members of the council, the secretary of state, the state treasurer, the adjutant-general, and our citizens generally.

In conclusion, I respectfully request the general court, at an early day, to approve the action of the state treasurer, in the disbursements he has made by direction of the governor and council, and herein fully set forth; and also to take such action in regard to the claims of the several hospitals herein named as will ensure a speedy reimbursement for services rendered, and money expended in an emergency, at the request of the same officials.

It may here be stated that after considerable delay, the claim of the state, for the expense incurred in organizing the Spanish war regiment was paid, with a trifling deduction.

COMMENTS OF THE PRESS.

OUR WAR GOVERNOR.

From the Daily Monitor, Concord, (Rep.) Jan'y 4, 1899.

Governor Ramsdell retires from the chief magistracy with the hearty respect of all our citizens. It has fallen to his lot to be a war governor; and the record of the last ten months of his term, by reason of the unusual occurrences which it has contained, constitutes in the general mind the most important period of his administration. Throughout his entire term he has conducted himself with admirable dignity and all of his official acts have been marked with proper consideration of their bearing upon the general welfare of the state. As a war governor he acted promptly and energetically, and yet with such reasonable conservatism that while New Hampshire's share in the conflict with Spain was highly creditable and, to the measure in which opportunity was afforded, gallant, the state was plunged into no needless expense; though nothing was left undone merely because of its cost. In time of peace, as well, the governor was both strong and vigilant; and the universal tribute of esteem which is accorded him has been well won and is worthily bestowed.

EX-GOVERNOR RAMSDELL.

From the Manchester Mirror, (Rep.) Jan'y 4, 1899.

Tomorrow George A. Ramsdell will retire from the governorship and resume his place in the ranks of private citizenship. Two years ago last summer the Republican party, humiliated

and disgusted by its experience with a man of different character, turned to Mr. Ramsdell, and by the unanimous vote of its convention made him its candidate for chief executive of the state, and a few weeks later the people ratified the selection by a larger majority than they have ever given any other nominee for a state office in a contested election.

They have had no occasion since to change the good opinion of the man, which thus found expression at the ballot-box, for what he was as a citizen and as a candidate he has been as a public official,—honest, capable, straightforward and faithful. In the scheming by which some men succeed he has not shown himself an adept. In the demagoguery by which some public characters win noisy approbation he has not been a practitioner. The concealments and silence in which adroit politicians cloak their purposes and deceive both friends and foes have been beyond his range. But no governor was ever more fearless in the discharge of what he conceived to be his duty and few have ever had so just a conception of what that duty was. He has not talked himself into public favor but his acts command the approval of the judgment and conscience of the state. Always highly appreciative of the dignity of his office, he has never stooped to anything which could in any way lower it in the estimation of the people. Always mindful of the fact that he was the guardian of the interests of the commonwealth he has devoted himself unreservedly to their protection and promotion. Always approachable and courteous, and desirous of counsel, he has never for an instant allowed clamor or threats to swerve him from the right course. He was ambitious to be governor of his native state, but when that high honor was accorded him in the magnificent way it was he had the wisdom and the courage to say, "This is enough." He has not attempted to use the office as a stepping-stone to another. His record is not tainted by any bargaining for a senatorship, by any prostitution of his official power to advance himself hereafter. He has been content to so serve his constituents that they would feel at the end of his term and afterwards that they made no mistake when with unprecedented unanimity they bestowed upon him the highest honor in their gift.

He has never forgotten that he was a Republican. It has never been necessary to remind him who his friends were, and, other things being equal, his party and his friends have had preference in all appointments, but the public good has been the paramount consideration. His state papers have been his own,—strong, dignified, sound and well phrased,—and his management of the state's financial affairs has been such as he has given his private business,—prudent, cautious and successful. Beginning with the legislature of 1897, his influence was steadily and strongly for an economical policy based upon the fact that taxes are a burden upon the people and that for whatever is exacted from them in the shape of tax levies they should have full value. To him is largely due the gratifying financial exhibit of the state treasurer that during his term of office there has been a phenomenal reduction of the state debt amounting to \$460,083.76 and a reduction of the state tax from \$500,000 to \$425,000, which may be still further reduced to \$400,000 and still provide for the yearly redemption of \$150,000 of the municipal war loan bonds, of which \$1,051,300 are all now outstanding.

The war with Spain forced upon Governor Ramsdell unexpected difficulties, more complicated and troublesome than those that have tested the ability of any governor since the War of the Rebellion. His obligation to fill the state's quota was clear, but how to do it was largely within his discretion, and in doing it there were complications and embarrassments which subjected him to extreme tests. No provision had been made for meeting the expense. All the National Guard organizations demanded the privilege of going, which only a third of them could have. Ten times as many men insisted upon having commissions as could receive them. Interested parties were clamorous for an extra session of the legislature; dealers in army supplies were zealous in securing a share of the profits. That there should be disappointment and criticism of any governor who was called upon to deal with such a situation was inevitable, and Mr. Ramsdell did not escape; but without any extra session of the legislature, without any fuss and feathers, without any boasting, New Hampshire's quota was filled more promptly than that of

any other state except one, and her troops reported for duty better organized and equipped than those of any other state which was so little prepared for war, and it was all done without imposing upon the taxpayers extra burdens, most of the expense having been authorized by the general government, which will refund the outlay.

Without going into details it is enough to say that with a weak and incapable governor, who would have yielded to pressure in that emergency, we should have been as a state at least \$100,000 worse off than we are today, and that the state's contribution to the volunteer force called for by the president would have been no more creditable than it was. In a word, George A. Ramsdell has been a strong, safe, faithful governor, and he surrenders the duties and responsibilities of the office to another and retires to private life with the respect, gratitude and good wishes of all the people of New Hampshire who appreciate good government and hold in proper estimation a high-minded, conscientious, capable public servant.

In closing, it is only fair to say that he has been indebted in no small measure to the support and assistance of a council composed of exceptionally able, loyal, level-headed men, who have heartily co-operated with him at every turn and have deserved and received a large share of the credit of one of the best administrations in the history of the state.

GOVERNOR RAMSDELL'S ADMINISTRATION.

From the Nashua Telegraph. (Rep.) Jan'y 4, 1899.

Gov. George A. Ramsdell retires from his official station with the record of having been a wise, careful and conscientious state executive. His administration has been a success; he has served the state faithfully and well, and has been saving of the people's money. Under his prudent management New Hampshire placed a regiment of soldiers in the field for the war with Spain without incurring the large expense which would have

resulted from a special session of the legislature. The affairs of the state were so well conducted that it was made possible to equip the regiment from money in the treasury, and all necessary expenses connected therewith were thus paid. Despite the fact of this unlooked-for expenditure, Governor Ramsdell's administration comes to an end with the treasury in a most excellent condition. He turns over to his successor no less than \$780,000 for the payment of such expenses as may be incurred during the coming year. Governor Ramsdell's administration has been marked by a considerable reduction in the state tax, and the financial condition of the commonwealth is such that a still further reduction may be made for the ensuing two years. The finances of the state make a gratifying exhibit.

The prompt and efficient action and careful personal attention which Governor Ramsdell bestowed upon New Hampshire's sick soldiers at Chickamunga will not soon be forgotten, and there is no doubt that his efficiency in this matter saved many lives. In brief, Governor Ramsdell did his part well as a war governor, and the perspective of time will only serve to emphasize this fact.

Aside from the incidents connected with the war, Governor Ramsdell's administration was marked by little that was unusual. He had more important judicial appointments to make than commonly fall to the lot of a New Hampshire executive, and these he filled with good judgment and discrimination. His other appointments, generally speaking, have been good. Viewed as a whole, Governor Ramsdell's administration is certain to stand well in the history of the state. It has been careful and conservative, and the people's interests have been faithfully guarded. Nashua's only governor has acquitted himself with credit.

From the Concord People and Patriot, (Dem.) Jan'y 1, 1899.

Whatever else may be said of Governor Ramsdell and his administration, he is entitled to the thanks of the people for his

judicious management of affairs on the part of the state during the war with Spain. The credit of New Hampshire was fully maintained and that without extravagant or useless expenditure.

EX-GOVERNOR RAMSDELL.

From the Nashua Press, (Rep.) Jan'y 5, 1899.

It is not too much to say that Hon. George A. Ramsdell retires from the office of governor with the highest respect of the people whom he has served with dignity and fidelity. Neither is it too much to say that his fellow citizens welcome his return to the walks of a private citizen and that it is their devout wish that he may be spared to a green old age to enjoy the honors he has merited and received.

That in his administration he has honored the state and the city of Nashua is known of all men. That he has given cheerful audience to all who have approached him relative to the affairs of state, or socially, is also known of all men, as it is that he exhibited the loftiest patriotism in preserving the fair fame of the state in the recent war with Spain. The writer had many opportunities to know that his one great desire was to stand firmly by the national administration and to see to it that nothing was left undone that ought to be done to preserve national honor and for our soldiers in the field. His tender solicitude for the men will be among the abiding memories of the volunteers who responded to their country's call in '98 and he will be known as our war governor.

It is not alone, however, in the things the Press has mentioned that ex-Governor Ramsdell will be remembered and given a prominent place in the history of New Hampshire. His state papers have been strong and dignified and have presented every issue fairly and in the best interests of the people. He has been prudent, cautious, careful that no scandals tarnished our shield, and in every particular has met the expectations of those who have felt that by reason of locality they had claims upon his consideration; never disappointing his friends in Nashua when

it was possible to grant their request. More than all else—and quite as important to our industrial and agricultural interests—he has guarded the public credit and treasury. That the balance sheet of the state treasurer shows relief to the people to the amount of \$460,083.76 of debt canceled, and a reduction of tax from \$500,000 to \$425,000, and which is to be further reduced in 1899 to \$400,000 and still provide for the yearly redemption of \$150,000 of the municipal war loan bonds, is due to his able financiering.

But why, since the figures in the inaugural of Governor Rolins show all this and more, dwell on an administration that has gone into history? Why? That those who come after him may be impressed that the road to honor, to the respect of one's fellow citizens, is in the conscientious performance of duty in every path of life; that it is in being faithful in all things that are committed to a man's hands. The path may be hedged about with thorns and there may be hours of doubt, but the man who travels straight ahead will discover happiness in the certainty that however the issue turned no man can rise up to condemn. This is the road ex-Governor Ramsdell has traveled, and so the Press wishes him long years of usefulness, contentment, the affection of his fireside, and in the end, as Murray puts it, something infinitely better.

From the Somersworth Free Press, (Rep.) Jan'y 6, 1899.

On Wednesday, George A. Ramsdell retired from the office of governor, leaving an official record not surpassed by that of any chief magistrate whom the state has ever had. Governor Ramsdell's administration has been clean, able and wise. There has been nothing of brag, bluster or show about his official conduct but he has done his duty quietly, earnestly and with a view solely to the highest interests of the state. Conservative and broad in his financial views, the economic interests of the state have been splendidly cared for by him. During the events leading up to the war with Spain, his course was such as to win the ut-

most approval. The ability and energy displayed by him and the council in raising and equipping New Hampshire's quota for the war were conspicuous, and in the face of not a few embarrassments and adverse conditions this object was accomplished with surprising celerity, effectiveness and economy. As a war governor he stands high among the executives of the time, and none performed their duty during that trying period any more faithfully, wisely and patriotically than did he. In his appointments to official positions he has been very fortunate, we might call it, but it is not a matter of fortune, but due to his clear judgment and strong sense of duty, in selecting. His record on this point is conspicuously gratifying. As an "all around" (if we may use the term) executive he has had no superior in this state among those who have occupied the gubernatorial chair. He retires to private life with the honor and reverence and the good repute which follow faithful service as its fruit."

From the Manchester Union, (Dem.) Jan'y 7, 1899.

George A. Ramsdell retired yesterday from the executive office, which he had creditably filled for the past two years, and became once more a private citizen. It is rarely that a governor of New Hampshire is called upon unexpectedly to meet so many and so varied exigencies. During his term of office three men filled the position of chief justice, of whom two were of his appointing; death and retirement by age limit caused marked changes in the personnel of the court; a vacancy occurred in the office of superintendent of public instruction, in the board of bank commissioners and in the railroad commission, not to mention minor positions which Governor Ramsdell was called upon to fill. It is only fair to say that his selections were made with good judgment and with credit both to himself and the state. It fell to Governor Ramsdell, also, to discharge responsibilities which come to an executive not often more than once in a generation; he directed the affairs of the state while the country was at war. To say that his every act met the approval of every-

body would be flattery, but it is simple justice to say that he met every emergency in the spirit of honest and patriotic endeavor, and discharged his many perplexing duties with credit and ability. He retires from the gubernatorial chair with the respect and good wishes of the citizens of the state, regardless of party affiliation.

FIRST REGIMENT HOME AGAIN.

Laconia Critic, (Ind.) of an earlier date.

The Critic is glad to announce that the First New Hampshire regiment has at last returned to its native state. Mothers, relatives and friends of those who buckled on the armor and went forth to do honor to the state in fighting the battles of the Union will rejoice with joy unspeakable that the boys have returned.

New Hampshire's quota did not see any fighting, but the deadly unseen foe that infected them in that Chickamauga camp proved nearly as terrible as the onslaught of Shafter's forces against Spanish bullets at Santiago.

Then the cry came "take the boys home to breathe again the pure air that rustles the green leaves, sweeping down from the grand old hills and mountains. The war is over, let the boys come home before many more of them are destroyed by the fever, that those who are sick may recover, aided by the unequalled love and care of their mothers, wives and sweethearts, and that those who cannot get well may close their eyes with the embraces of near and dear friends and be buried at home."

Never did the governor of a state take hold more energetically to accomplish so worthy, so divine a result.

To bring home the sick, he sent a hospital train with physicians with skilled nurses and with the light foods and medicines. When the regiment began its journey to New Hampshire, being wired that a hospital car with physicians and nurses was needed to meet the troops en route, in a few hours the governor had the car on its way. The physicians and the nurses met the

boys at Philadelphia and it is apparent that their services were greatly needed. The Critic has great admiration for Governor Ramsdell's timely efforts in getting the boys home.

Laconia has lost four of her brightest, bravest and best young men. They contracted disease while in the service of the government from which they passed from us. On account of this great loss to the community and the anguish which their untimely fate occasions to their families we feel that our sacrifice for the liberty of Cuba and the honor of our country has been a costly one.

Among those who have come home many are wasted by disease and hardships and show the great suffering that they have endured. But we believe that they did their full duty and with pride we welcome those that are left, home again.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

CAPT. WILLIAM RAMSDELL, SR.

Capt. William Ramsdell, the first of the name to settle in Milford, was born in Lynn, Mass., April 10, 1766, and was the son of Abijah Ramsdell. The family was among the earliest to settle in Lynn. He made his first voyage when a mere boy, and continued to follow the sea until he was about fifty years old, taking up his residence meanwhile in Salem, Mass., where he was married August 22, 1802, to Mary Southward, the daughter of Capt. George Southward of Salem, and the emigrant ancestor of this branch of the Southward family. Captain Southward's wife was Emma Phelps, a daughter of Jonathan Phelps. Capt. Daniel Hawthorne, an intimate friend of Captain Southward and the grandfather of Nathaniel Hawthorne, married another daughter of Jonathan Phelps, and between the two families there was an intimate acquaintance for many years.

Captain Ramsdell for a long time commanded vessels sailing out of Salem harbor. In 1815, desiring a change, he purchased the farm in Milford, upon which he resided until his decease, January 12, 1842. Captain Ramsdell left many friends in Salem, and during the remainder of his life his family, especially in the warm season, was seldom without visitors from that old and interesting city. He brought with him from Salem his wife, her father and mother, and four children. William, Mary, Charles, and John; and Love, the daughter of his first wife, with whom he lived but a short time and who died soon after the birth of the child.

Captain Ramsdell was a Whig in politics, but cared little for public position; in fact, he was too old at the time he became a

citizen of New Hampshire, if he had had an inclination, to become a candidate for political favor, but he succeeded in gaining the respect, confidence, and affection of the people of the town to an extent attained by few life residents, and by none who took up the work when past middle life. The epitaph upon his tombstone tells the exact truth: "Beloved as a husband, father, and friend." Although he had visited almost every country and been exposed to almost every contagious disease, he died at the age of seventy-six from an attack of measles contracted from one of his grandchildren.

CAPT. WILLIAM RAMSDELL, JR.

William Ramsdell, Jr., was born in Salem, May 28, 1803, and came to Milford with his father's family at the age of twelve years. He received a good English education in the common schools at Salem, and in the academies at Groton and Andover, Mass., giving especial attention to mathematics and navigation. He possessed an unusually well-developed physical frame, and at an age when most boys find themselves ready to commence serious study he had prepared himself to take the responsible position of supercargo upon an East India merchantman, commanded by an old-time friend of his father. The duties of a competent supercargo who had the confidence of his captain included in most instances the buying of the cargo. His thorough knowledge of navigation made his services of great value to the captains with whom he sailed. Although he never served before the mast, he held the positions respectively of second and first mate, and upon his last voyage, by reason of the death of his captain, he came home in command of the ship. He was commonly called Captain Ramsdell from the fact that during the larger part of one voyage he was in command of the vessel. November 26, 1826, he married Maria Anitonette Moore, the eldest daughter of Rev. Humphrey Moore. They lived to celebrate their golden wedding, November 26, 1876. After his marriage he made one voyage of three years. He returned from this

voyage with no purpose of discontinuing his seafaring life; he yielded, however, to the importunities of friends and declined the pressing request of the owners of the ship he had brought home to take the command for another voage. The vessel went out in charge of another officer, but was lost in the Indian ocean with the entire complement of officers and crew.

While in the East Indian service he had many experiences with the natives of the Spice Islands, with whom his vessel traded. The people of these islands were half civilized and treacherous, and the crews of ships carrying on trade with them were always provided with arms. Captain Ramsdell was naturally a leader and had something like a military organization on every ship in which he sailed. His height was six feet and two inches. His weight at his best was two hundred and forty pounds without an ounce of superfluous material in his makeup. In an encounter with the Malays he was at one time stabbed with a dirk, which went entirely through the palm of his hand, leaving a scar which remained through life, but which did not otherwise disfigure him. Although his voyages were made largely to the islands in the Indian ocean, he visited many other ports, to which were taken cargoes of spices. These cargoes were exchanged for goods needed by the inhabitants of the islands, and again exchanged for pepper and other commodities previous to the home voyage.

Settling upon the farm about 1830, he was a farmer for the remainder of his life, but he found time to hold many local offices, to settle many estates, and to act as managing director at the time the Wilton railroad (of which he was a director from the beginning) was built. For thirty years following the opening of the Wilton railroad, he was employed much of the time as an appraiser of land and fire damages by the managers of the Boston & Lowell and leased lines of railroads. He was one of the founders of the Milford Savings Bank and for several years its president. He was one of the promoters of the Free Public Library and for many years a trustee, serving as its president from 1866 to 1872.

Soon after his marriage, he became with his wife a member of

the Congregational church, and the relation continued until the time of his decease, Oct. 27, 1889. His wife preceded him by something more than ten years. To them were born four children who lived to reach mature years: William H., Hannah P., George A., and Charles A. William H. was a soldier in the War of the Rebellion. Hannah P. was educated at the school of her aunt, Mrs. Josephine Ellis, at Hanover, and at Mount Holyoke Seminary, South Hadley, Mass.; for many years she was a successful teacher in public and private schools. George A. now resides at Nashua, N. H.; and Charles A., after a long and successful career as a wholesale salesman of dry goods in Boston, is spending the later years of his life in Winchester, Mass., where he has a retail store. He is at present a director in the Wilton railroad.

Capt. William Ramsdell, Jr., was a great reader, and early commenced to accumulate a library of choice books. At the time of his decease his collection was as large and valuable as that of any citizen of the town.

He was a Whig in politics up to the time of the formation of the Republican party; after that a consistent member of the latter party. He was moderator at eight annual meetings and upon many special occasions, and twelve times a member of the board of selectmen. He served upon most of the important committees for the execution of the business of the town until he was advanced in life. In 1842 and 1847, he was a representative to the general court. He was a good public speaker and easily commanded the attention of town and corporation meetings and of the House of Representatives. Perhaps the most valuable service he rendered the town was in connection with filling its quota during the Civil War. This work called for time, energy, and such a knowledge of men as would enable the town's agent to successfully contend with the agents of other towns, substitute brokers, and numberless men who at this time preyed upon the state.

GOV. GEORGE A. RAMSDELL.

George Allen Ramsdell, governor of New Hampshire (1897 and 1898), was born in Milford, March 11, 1834. His earliest ancestors in America upon both sides were English emigrants and among the first settlers of Massachusetts. In 1815 his grandfather, Captain William Ramsdell, then of Salem, Mass., purchased the farm in Milford which descended to the second Capt. William Ramsdell and was the home of the family for more than seventy-five years. His mother was the eldest daughter of Rev. Humphrey Moore, D. D., who was pastor of the Congregational church in Milford for a third of a century.

The subject of this sketch attended the public schools in his native town, took a preparatory course at McCollom Institute, Mont Vernon, and completed one year's study in college. He subsequently received the degree of Master of Arts from Dartmouth College. Upon the completion of his legal studies, he opened an office in Peterborough, where he remained in the active practice of his profession six years, and until he was appointed clerk of the supreme court for the county of Hillsborough. He held this position for twenty-three years.

During his long service as clerk, he acted as auditor, master in chancery, and referee in a large number of causes. His service as a trier of causes has never been exceeded by any member of the bar excepting the judges of the courts of the state.

During the thirty-three years of his residence in the city of his adoption he has filled many positions of influence. For ten years he was a member of the board of education, and for twice that time he has been trustee of the public library. In 1869, 1870 and 1871, he was a member of the legislature; in 1876, a member of the Constitutional convention; and in 1891 and 1892, a member of the executive council. For five years he was president of the board of trustees of the State Industrial School, and for many years has been a trustee of the New Hampshire Orphans' Home.

Among the positions of private trust which he holds may be

enumerated president of the First National bank and treasurer of the City Guaranty Savings bank in Nashua, director in the Nashua Manufacturing Company and the Jackson Company, the leading industries of his city. He is also a director in the Wilton and Peterborough railroads; but, as these roads are under a long lease, no demand is made upon his time by reason of his connection with them. Governor Ramsdell, although making no claim to oratory, has had large experience as a public speaker and has made many addresses during his somewhat protracted life. His oration at the dedication of the town house in Milford in 1871, his introductory address at Concord, August 3, 1892, as president of the day at the dedication of the statue of John P. Hale, and his speech in Music Hall, Boston, before the Massachusetts Republican Club during his gubernatorial campaign in October, 1896, being among the number. During his official term, he made more than thirty addresses of a somewhat formal character.

Governor Ramsdell has not only been an advocate of temperance but of total abstinence; has never tasted intoxicants of any kind as a beverage, or used tobacco in any form; is a member of the First Congregational church in Nashua, and for many years been prominent in the denomination in the state; was one of the promoters of the erection, in 1893, of the stone church of his parish, which is not excelled by any structure of the kind in the state. He is also a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason.

Mr. Ramsdell is one of the most unpretentious citizens of his city. He has a pleasant home in Nashua where, with his wife and daughter, he is enjoying the latter part of a life which from early manhood has been one of ceaseless care and labor. Mr. Ramsdell's political life commenced with the organization of the Republican party, and during the forty years and more of its existence he has been a consistent member. He was elected governor November 3, 1896, by a plurality of more than twenty thousand votes. His vote was larger than that attained by any gubernatorial candidate during the entire history of the state, and his vote in his own city was larger than that received by

any man at any election, save William McKinley. Among the noticeable features of his administration outside of the raising of the regiment for the Spanish war, may be mentioned a large reduction of the state debt, the appointment of Hon. Lewis W. Clark, chief justice, to succeed Hon. Alonzo P. Carpenter, deceased, and the appointment of Hon. Isaac N. Blodgett, chief justice, at the close of Judge Clark's term, and the selection of Hon. Robert J. Peaslee and Hon. John E. Young as associate justices of the supreme court of the state.

Governor Ramsdell was married November 29, 1860, to Eliza D. Wilson of Deering, a descendant upon both sides from charter members of the Londonderry colony. Four children have been born to them: Harry W., February 1, 1862; Arthur D., August 2, 1863; Charles T., July 6, 1865, and Anne M., December 8, 1873. The sons are married.

The following is from the pen of Col. Henry O. Kent, and is taken from the history of our Seventeenth Regiment in the Civil War, which was published near the close of Governor Ramsdell's administration. Colonel Kent was his opponent in the gubernatorial contest which resulted in his election:

"As this is perhaps the last regimental history of the days of the war for the Union, recognizing the significant fact that at this writing, a generation later than the close of that conflict, we are again under arms, this time, thank God, a *united* people, either section of the country vying with the other in noble emulation for the honor of the flag; and when a New Hampshire regiment is again in the field, it seems peculiarly fitting that this volume be the connecting link between the military record of the glorious past and the story that shall be told in like manner of the deeds of her sons in this conflict.

"To that end it also seems fitting that we present a brief narrative of the personality and career of the present chief executive of the state and commander-in-chief of its military power—the honored citizen who, by the choice of its people, enjoys the high distinction of being a *war governor*.

"The writer has known Governor Ramsdell through the vicissitudes of an active life, with respect for his sterling qualities and absolute integrity as a citizen.

* Married Jan-1902
Charles F. (ing to)

“George Allen Ramsdell, born in Milford, March 11, 1834, is of English stock, and from one of the early families of New England. He took a preparatory academic course at the well-known McCollom Institute at Mont Vernon, was an undergraduate at Amherst College, and later received the degree of A. M. from Dartmouth; was admitted to the bar, and was for a long time clerk of the courts for Hillsborough county. After his retirement from this responsible position, in which he often acted with great approval as a trier of causes, he was tendered a seat upon the supreme bench by Gov. John B. Smith.

* * * * *

“His position and influence in moral affairs has always been potential on the right side; as a consistent member of the Congregational church, a practical and pronounced temperance man, a just and worthy Mason, having attained to the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite. In his pleasant home, he enjoys the just reward and rest of an honorable and busy life. Thus equipped, he was in November, 1896, elected governor of the state, serving with conscientious singleness of purpose and excellent results. Governor Ramsdell is careful, considerate, conservative, and yet a quick observer of public events, ready to meet the exigencies of state as they arise with wise deliberation.

“It must stand as a great credit to the state and its chief magistrate, that in the spring of the present year he raised so speedily and equipped so thoroughly, the admirable regiment now sustaining the honor of New Hampshire in the field, a regiment that we of the ‘old regime’ gladly welcome to comradeship, and the New Hampshire roll of honor begun at Louisburg and Bunker Hill and lengthened in every recurring war.

“The expedition, wise forethought, and experienced care exercised by Governor Ramsdell in organizing and forwarding the First New Hampshire Infantry in May, 1898, is well set forth in the following telegram sent the governor and given to the press by Senator Chandler :

“WASHINGTON, May 25, 1898.

“The president, secretary of war, and adjutant-general express themselves as highly gratified that the New Hampshire

regiment—two hundred and fifty more than our quota—has come so promptly into the field, completely equipped in all particulars for immediate service.

“The people of New Hampshire may well be proud of the good and quick work done by their governor and council, adjutant-general, and other military authorities, and may feel sure that their first Cuban regiment will continue to do honor to the state. . . .

“Accept my personal thanks and gratitude for the good judgment, rapidity, and success with which you have, in behalf of the state, met the first demands of the war for Cuban freedom.”

REV. HUMPHREY MOORE, D. D.

Humphrey Moore, the youngest child of Humphrey and Mary Sweetser Moore, who for more than a generation was the minister of the town and who lived among its people for nearly seventy years, was born in Princeton, Mass., Oct. 19, 1778.

His grandfather was Paul Moore; his great-grandfather was John Moore; his great-great-grandfather was Jacob Moore, natives of Sudbury, Mass.; his great-great-great-grandfather was John Moore, who emigrated from England and settled in Cambridge but removed to Sudbury in 1643.

His parents, according to the testimony of the son, “were industrious, economical, exemplary in their lives, and respected by all their acquaintances.” From them he obtained all the instruction he received previous to his ninth year, when he became for the first time a pupil in the district school. Robert B. Thomas, his first teacher in school, taught him to write, and under his instruction the pupil became a good penman, and at the age of ninety-two years his manuscripts were not only legible but good specimens of hand-writing for any age. He was also thoroughly grounded in elementary mathematics by his first public instructor. His father died when he was twelve years old. From this time he depended upon his own exertions for a liveli-

hood. The four years preceding his admission to Harvard College in 1795, were spent in alternate study and manual labor. He was obliged to practice the strictest economy in order to meet the expenses of his preparatory course and to put himself in respectable condition to appear before the faculty of Harvard College for examination. The coat which he wore on important occasions for the first two years of college life was made from one which was given to his father at the age of twenty-one years as a freedom coat and by him worn as a best garment until his death, or for a period of thirty-one years. He maintained a good position in college and graduated with the class of 1799. There was a vacation of four weeks preceding commencement, and not wishing to lose this time he engaged a school in Bath, Maine, to continue six months. Not being present at commencement in 1799, he did not receive the degree of A. B. until the following year.

After closing his school in Bath in December, 1799, he became a student in theology with Dr. Backus, of Somers, Connecticut, who was accustomed to train young men for the ministry, there being at that time no theological schools in the country. After the usual course in divinity he was licensed to preach by the association, of which Dr. Backus was a member. He was settled as pastor of the church in Milford, Oct. 13, 1802, and sustained that relation one third of a century. April 5, 1803, he was united in marriage with Hannah Peabody, third daughter of the late William Peabody. Of this marriage there were three daughters and one son. Two daughters survived him. He remained in Mr. Peabody's family one year, looking for a good farm upon which to settle, it having been his purpose from manhood to till the soil with his own hands.

In April, 1804, he was successful in negotiating for the farm upon which he moved that year and which he occupied the remainder of his life. His choice was wisely made. It had ample acreage, was made up of a variety of soil, with woodlots and pasturage and an interval area of twenty acres. It was situated in the immediate vicinity of the village and a considerable portion of it is now covered with dwelling houses, having been sold

from time to time for house lots to meet the demands of the increasing business of his adopted town. The elms in front of the mansion, which he lived to occupy so long, and above and below it, were planted by him, as well as the central tree upon the public square.

In the winter of 1803 and 1804, he taught the school in his own district in addition to his other duties, and until the close of his life maintained the deepest interest in the schools of the town. He fitted many young men for college during the earlier years of his ministry. Most of his students gave some portion of their time to the cultivation of the soil, some of them to recompense him for board and tuition and some for the health and pleasure it brought.

At a distance of ninety years it is difficult to understand how the young clergyman could perform so much labor in so many departments. He gave his personal attention to all his farming operations, working in the field nearly as constantly as any man he hired, occasionally taking a day for a parochial visit, generally at some season of the year other than the busiest. The larger part of his sermons were thought out while he was engaged with some tool of agriculture in his hand and written out, with rare exceptions, at night, after the companions of his day's labor were asleep. As a consequence, his discourses were practical and easily understood by the masses who listened to him. His illustrations were never brought from far, but came out of the ordinary experience of an average human life. He was a good writer; could say in a few words what he desired to express; was logical in argument and pointed in application; was ready at repartee and a formidable opponent in skirmish or protracted controversy. During his pastorate of a third of a century, he was held in the highest estimation by his professional brethren and by general consent was counted a very strong preacher. He had a slight lisp in his speech, but it was so slight that it did not impair his force as a public speaker, as he uniformly spoke with deliberation. He possessed a commanding presence; his height was something more than six feet, and his body seemed to have been framed for the performance of the

best possible work. His physical and mental equipment was fortunately dominated by a gentle and devout spirit. It is the testimony of those nearest to him that in his protracted life he was never betrayed into the utterance of a hasty or unkind word. He was generously endowed with wit, but used this gift in such a manner as to leave no sting behind.

In 1808 he purchased a second farm adjoining the first. Subsequently he made other purchases until he had, at one time, more than three hundred acres of improved land under his control. In the year 1820, he built the brick house which he lived to occupy fifty-one years. The house cost, exclusive of what was done by himself and his team, four thousand dollars, and was at that time one of the best residences in the county. The same year, the legislature constituted a State Board of Agriculture, for the purpose of making an annual publication in the interests of agriculture. He was one of the committee of publication. In the report of 1822, which was the first report made, he was the author of one hundred and fourteen out of one hundred and twenty-eight pages. Fifty years later, James O. Adams, secretary of our State Board of Agriculture, reproduced a large part of Dr. Moore's work, saying: "The author from whom I quote discusses with so much good sense the very questions which interest the farmer of today, that I copy freely." But farming was not, in his own language, his primary object, and in 1824, he published a volume of four hundred pages, entitled, "A Treatise on the Divine Nature, Exhibiting the Distinction of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Previous to this time he had published a pamphlet of eighty-four pages in fine type entitled, "A Reply to a Series of Letters on the Mode and Subject of Baptism Addressed to the Public by Stephen Chapin." The same year he espoused the cause of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, and never after used any spirituous liquor. He entered into this reform, as into everything he undertook, with his whole heart, writing and speaking much upon the subject. He had ten temperance lectures, one of which he delivered in twelve towns in the state. A barn which he raised in 1827, was the first building raised in Milford

without the aid of some kind of intoxicating liquor. In the year 1829, he was appointed by the governor to preach the election sermon before the legislature, and performed the duty at the meeting of the body in June. In 1830 he buried his wife, with whom he had lived nearly twenty-seven years. Of her he wrote: "She was a faithful and affectionate wife. She was a kind and watchful mother. She brought up her children to diligence in business and to correct habits. She taught them morality and religion, and accompanied her instructions with a corresponding example. She was remarkable for industry and frugality, and was successful in whatever she undertook."

He subsequently married Mary J. French, the daughter of the late Stephen French, of Bedford. She died Nov. 23, 1898, at the advanced age of 90 years.

He closed his labors as pastor of the church January 10, 1836, but continued to preach as occasion offered, until he reached the age of nearly fourscore years. He was a good pastor; large additions were made to the membership of the church during his pastorate and he left the office he had so long filled at a time when the church was united and strong. After the close of his pastorate, his active mind found employment in scientific experiments upon his farm. He never fed his ground highly, but all the material he put upon it was perfectly prepared to assist nature in the perfection of a crop. He received one or more first premiums for the most profitably cultivated farm. He interspersed these labors with the mental exercise of lecture-writing, preparing and delivering in Milford and adjoining towns between thirty and forty addresses upon popular subjects. He lectured twenty-eight times before the Milford lyceum. Thirteen of his occasional sermons were published, and eight addresses.

Although in no sense a politician, never having attended a caucus or convention in his life, the anti-slavery party insisted that he should allow his name to be used as a candidate for the House of Representatives in 1840, and again as a candidate for the State Senate in 1841. To his surprise he was elected to both positions by the joint action of the Whigs and the anti-slavery men of all parties.

During his service in the House there were referred to that body by our governor copies of resolutions passed by the legislature of the state of South Carolina. These resolutions were sent to the judiciary committee and a report was made to the House in the form of resolutions setting forth the duty of the several states to return fugitive slaves. Upon this report the struggle in the legislature of New Hampshire between the friends and opponents of human slavery began, and in the protracted debate Dr. Moore was a leader, crossing swords with the ablest lawyers in the state.

The same subject came up in the Senate the following year, and he again stood four square for human freedom. Of him it can be truthfully said that "he never concealed his opinions or took counsel of his fears."

Dr. Moore left an auto-biographical sketch of one hundred and thirty closely written pages of manuscript. The following is the record of his experience in the House of Representatives in 1840, at the time the slavery resolutions were under discussion:

"I was requested by several to speak. It required but few words to persuade me to comply. No sooner had I begun than there was great excitement and confusion in the House. A majority of the members had no sympathy with the remarks I made. They used every imaginable effort to put me down. They shuffled and stamped with their feet. Some kicked the spit boxes which were near them. There was a roar of confusion. But I was neither intimidated nor embarrassed. I raised my voice to its highest pitch and to its greatest strength, but it was overwhelmed by a flood of mixed noises. When I could not be heard on account of the tumultuous confusion in different parts of the house, I appealed to the speaker by expressive looks. He commanded order. But no sooner was it restored and I began to speak, than the same farce was acted over again. At length an enraged opponent, to sweep me from the floor, called me to order. The speaker decided that I was in order, and that I might go on. I went on till I had finished my speech amidst the clamor of the opposition."

The resolutions passed the House by a decided majority, and

went to the Senate where they were referred to the next session. In 1841, while Mr. Moore was a member of the Senate, resolutions of the same character passed the House but were indefinitely postponed by the Senate.

In 1845, contrary to his inclination, but yielding to a stern sense of duty and to the repeated suggestion that in a cause so unpopular the names of the candidates upon the ticket must be men well known throughout the state as the tried friends of the cause of human freedom, he allowed his name to be used by the Free-soil party as a candidate for Congress. The state was then entitled to four members, and they were elected upon a general ticket. His associates were Reuben Porter, Joseph Cilley and Jared Perkins. This ticket received a little less than five thousand votes.

John P. Hale at the time ran as an independent Democrat, his nomination by the regular Democratic party having been revoked. Mr. Hale received more votes than anyone on the Free-soil ticket, defeating one of the Democratic nominees without being elected himself, a majority of votes at that time being required to secure an election.

In the year 1845, he received the honorary degree of D. D. For the last twenty years of his life, which ended April 8, 1871, he gradually withdrew from active public work. He continued, however, to write sermons, lectures and essays, and to attend the meetings of his ministerial and agricultural associations until the infirmities of age prevented. Few men have found their latter years so pleasant, or reaped so much satisfaction in a field usually so barren. Few have found their last their best days, but it was so with him. He never found fault with anything. To him, the divine order of events was satisfactory. His purpose from the beginning was to fill a man's place in the world. This gave character to all his actions. When the late rebellion came upon the country, he hired a substitute to represent him for three years in the war, saying: "I desire to have a part in this conflict."

Dr. Moore was orthodox in sentiment and preached the doc-

trines usually held by the churches of his denomination at the time he was a settled pastor, but he held these doctrines in a most catholic spirit.

The creed of the church in Milford, written by him soon after his settlement, has never been altered.

His sermon preached at the ordination of Rev. Abel Conant at Leominster, Mass., some twenty years after his own ordination, and which was printed, reads well today notwithstanding the theological changes of the last three-quarters of a century.

At the Centennial celebration in June, 1894, the speakers, without exception, assigned to the beloved pastor a large share in placing Milford, where the town has stood, upon all the great questions which have agitated the public mind for the past seventy-five years.

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS.

DEDICATION OF THE JOHN P. HALE STATUE.

UNVEILING CEREMONIES.

On the third day of August, 1892, in the state house yard at Concord there was dedicated a statue of the late Senator, John P. Hale. A vast concourse of people were assembled in the yard and adjoining streets. Col. Daniel Hall of Dover was the orator of the day. Gov. Hiram A. Tuttle, Senator William E. Chandler, Hon. Galusha A. Grow of Penn., Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell of Mass., Frederick Douglass of Washington, Rev. Augustus Woodbury, D. D., of Providence, R. I., Hon. Amos Hadley of Concord, Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., of Dover also made brief addresses.

John W. Hutchinson and Abbie Hutchinson-Patten were also present and sang some of the old songs of freedom.

At half-past eleven the assemblage was called to order by Councillor Ramsdell, the president of the day, who, after music, said:

It is our custom, upon the threshold of important occasions to pause and recognize the Divine presence. It is highly appropriate that we do so at this time. Let silence be observed while Rev. Dr. Quint invokes the blessing of Almighty God.

Rev. Dr. Alonzo H. Quint then offered prayer; after which followed the

ADDRESS OF COUNCILLOR GEORGE A. RAMSDELL.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—On the 22d day of April, 1890, Senator William E. Chandler communicated to the executive department his purpose to present to the state a statue of the late John

Parker Hale. Governor David H. Goodell and his council made it a matter of record that the state would gladly accept the gift, and soon after set apart a portion of the state house yard for its reception.

A month ago the senator made a second communication announcing the arrival of the statue from Europe, and his desire to present it to the state upon the third day of August, 1892.

His excellency Governor Tuttle at once appointed a committee of the council with the secretary of state, to make arrangements for a proper ceremonial at the unveiling. In consultation with the governor and the donor, such arrangements have been made as seemed to befit the occasion, and we are assembled to uncover and to take to the care of the state a statue of this noble son of New Hampshire —

[The speaker at this point recognized ex-Gov. Nathaniel S. Berry, who had been escorted to the platform leaning upon the arm of ex-Senator James W. Patterson, and given a seat near the presiding officer.]

It is an agreeable duty, easily performed, to welcome this gathering of my fellow-citizens from all parts of the state. Nor is it less agreeable, or an office more difficult of execution, to extend a greeting to these distinguished men about me, representing our own and other states, not a few of whom have received high honors at the hands of their fellow-men. But what shall I say to this aged man, for two years our war governor, who, bending beneath the weight of fourscore and fifteen years, prompted by a great love, has come from his retirement to take part in the exercises of this day? How shall I address this favorite of heaven? No words of mine can express the thought which I see pictured in the faces of all within the sound of my voice. But, as my eyes [turning to the statue of Webster] rest upon those lips of bronze, I am moved to say,—“Venerable man: you have come down to us from a former generation. Providence hath bountifully lengthened out your life, that you might behold this glorious occasion.”

Resuming my theme: We have come together to uncover and take to the care of the state a statue of this noble son of New

Hampshire, whose commanding presence, liberal culture, stirring eloquence, and, more than all, whose dauntless moral courage made him such a mighty factor in the formation of that public sentiment which made it possible for this nation in God's own time to throw off the institution of slavery which had come down to us, an almost fatal legacy, from an earlier generation and a ruder civilization.

The number of memorials of this character belonging to the state is small. They can be enumerated in a few moments, and upon the fingers of one hand.

Forty years ago, in recognition of his great service in the early history of our national existence, there was erected by the state, in the town of Hampton Falls, upon our limited sea coast, a marble shaft to the memory of Meshech Weare, who, during the stormy years from 1776 to 1785, was at the head of civil affairs in New Hampshire.

One third of a century after this work was done and when it seemed that no more names, illustrious in our history before the Civil War, were to be perpetuated in bronze and stone, a distinguished citizen of Massachusetts, always loyal to the place of his birth, presented to the state that statue of Daniel Webster, whose peerless intellect and patriotic statesmanship have given our small commonwealth a name throughout the world.

Yonder statue of Stark has been but recently placed upon its foundation by the state, in obedience to a popular demand that our most prominent figure in the War of the Revolution,—the man who, in that great contest, with no authority but the commission of the state of New Hampshire in his pocket, and (may I not say it) with few men behind him save the citizen soldiers of our state, fought a decisive battle,—should have in addition to his great fame already secured, all the immortality that bronze and granite can give.

There is, at Thornton's Ferry, upon a lot and foundation furnished by the town of Merrimack, a substantial granite monument awaiting dedication, placed there by the state in memory of the distinguished services of Mathew Thornton, illustrious not only as one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, but

also a co-worker with Weare and others—a galaxy of noble men—in laying the foundations of our state government.

The last legislature made an appropriation to assist the towns of Peterborough and Temple in building a highway and establishing a public park upon a mountain rising majestically upon their borders and overlooking, like some giant sentinel, upon one hand, the place of birth of General James Miller, and on the other, the place of his decease, to the end that the memory of this rugged old soldier, so creditable to our state, perish not from the minds of men so long as these evidences of man's work upon that granite mountain shall endure.

The list is not long: Weare, Webster, Stark, Thornton, Miller; but, God willing, another name shall be added before the sun goes down.

The statue will now be unveiled by John Parker Hale Chandler, a son of the donor and grandson to the senator to whose memory it is erected.

At twelve o'clock Master John Parker Hale Chandler, a boy of seven years, pulled the cord which lowered the United States flag which had covered the statue, and the unveiling was accomplished amid cheers from the assembly and music from the band.

ADDRESS OF HON. GEO. A. RAMSDELL

At the Presentation of a Memorial Album to the Soldiers' Home
at Tilton, March 11, 1896.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SOLDIERS' HOME :

Nearly six months ago it was brought to my attention that while most of the Grand Army posts had been furnished with a memorial volume in which to record a brief sketch of the military life of its entire membership, the New Hampshire Soldiers' Home had nothing of the kind.

Desiring to make as permanent as possible the record of the brave men who have heretofore made their home here, of the veterans whom we today congratulate upon an honored past,

and the many soldiers who for a limited number of years shall avail themselves of the privileges of this retreat, we come with little formality to present this volume to the trustees of this, an institution most creditable to the state, to be by them cared for and used until such time as the roll call of Union soldiers in the War of the Rebellion shall cease.

It adds much to the pleasure of this occasion, and it invests it with additional interest to know that the present board of trustees will charge it upon their successors in office, that whenever the doors of this home are closed for the reason that no veteran remains among the living within the borders of our state who needs its shelter, this volume with all its precious contents shall be carefully deposited in the archives of the state, there to remain as long as our people respect patriotism and deeds of valor upon the battlefield.

While it cannot be claimed that every man enlisting in the Union army in the Civil War did so from purely patriotic motives, and while it must be admitted that other inducements prompted many to enter the ranks of the defenders of our country, yet the fact remains, and will forever remain, that never in the history of the world was there an army gathered with so large a number of men moved into position by purely patriotic motives.

The causes of the war were not carefully analyzed by all who had part in a conflict of which the past furnished no parallel. But there were thoughtful men in command and in the ranks, who had been careful students of history, and who understood that any relic of an earlier, not to say barbarous, age, standing in the pathway of that civilization, which, during all the centuries, has had a continuous though at times an almost imperceptible, onward movement must give way, or in the end be smitten from the face of the earth.

Our soldiers all understood that rebellion was in the land and must be put down at all hazards, and the government maintained in its integrity upon every square mile of its territory. And this was a grand, inspiring motive, but as time went on every soldier as well as every patriotic citizen, came to understand that there

was a "plague spot" in our midst, and that the war which had come into existence and which was laying its heavy hand with merciless force, not only upon the soldier in the field, but upon the men, women and children at home, would not have come into existence, had not the institution of human slavery existed before it, and the soldier in time found himself dominated by an idea grander than the love of country; the idea that all men have an inalienable right to freedom. The question of the mental or moral equality, the question of the superiority of the white and the inferiority of the black race was not involved. Men who care nothing for such issues, if they have no sinister purposes, abhor the institution of human slavery.

And so it came about that our soldiers found themselves in the course of time dominated by two grand ideas, and marching in ranks the most illustrious that have ever trod the earth.

I am aware that my language is that of unmeasured eulogy, but my blood runs warm when I think of the issues of the Civil War and its glorious outcome. But while I give myself this freedom of speech it ought to be said here and everywhere that this hostility to the institution of slavery, and this willingness, and even desire to see it cut out of the body politic, which increased as the war went on, arose and continued without personal enmity against the residents of the South. Good and wise men saw then, as they see now in the retrospect of history, that it was an institution rather than men which brought on the conflict.

The man who can fairly catalogue himself as an actor in any of the great civil and military movements by which the world's progress has been characterized must respect himself and must command the respect of his associates, and this mutual respect naturally and inevitably calls into existence an organized brotherhood.

The fact that Grand Army posts exist all over the land, (and I am glad to know that one has been recently formed here), is evidence strong as the light of the sun at noonday, that the men who now make up the membership of the posts, and those who have heretofore been connected with them, were originally asso-

ciated in a work which took deep hold on their better natures. Cowards and wrong-doers of every name disband and separate as soon as their contemptible work is done, but brave men have a fellow-feeling which abates not even at the grave. It is a matter of congratulation that there are at least 5000 veterans in New Hampshire whose names are upon the rolls of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of men who, with few exceptions, in private life have been among the most useful and honored of our citizens. In fact, it is one of the wonders of the world that so large a number of men throughout the length and breadth of our land, but recently in the ranks of an army, could in a moment, as it were, lay aside all evidences of military life and resume their former occupations.

We cannot too much honor the Grand Army as a powerful factor in holding the people of the state to a proper sense of their obligations to their fellow citizens who, a generation ago, took up the work of defending and redeeming our country, and the magnitude of the work accomplished grows upon us as we think of what the United States today stands for among the nations of the world.

With sentiments of gratitude but imperfectly expressed to the men whose names and deeds shall be herein recorded, in the presence of the old soldiers whose home is now on this beautiful spot and in the presence of this assembled company of Grand Army men and others who have done the state much service, I present this record book to the New Hampshire Soldiers' Home.

SPEECH OF HON. GEO. A. RAMSDELL

At the Annual Banquet of the Republican Club of Massachusetts in Music Hall, Oct. 21, 1896.

MR. PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS REPUBLICAN CLUB :

I thank you for the invitation to be present tonight. I do not appropriate this honor to myself personally, but I count it an honor tendered to the entire Republican party of my state, of

which I am tonight the humble representative, a state which, in the last ten presidential elections—sometimes against powerful odds—has never failed to cast its electoral vote for the candidates of the Republican party and which is only waiting the passing of a few days to cast its eleventh presidential vote for that gallant soldier, that disciplined statesman, and that well-rounded-out citizen, William McKinley, of Ohio, for president, and his most worthy associate for the vice presidency, Garret A. Hobart, of New Jersey.

We are having, so far as the Republican side is concerned, an old-time campaign in New Hampshire. Most of our speakers who have heretofore taken part are today upon the stump, and all of our meetings have been well attended, and in almost every audience there has been a respectable showing of gold Democrats. I had the pleasure last week of speaking in our classic town of Exeter with your distinguished citizen, Curtis Guild, Jr., who made one of the most comprehensive and exhaustive addresses of the campaign and easily ranks among the best political orators of the country.

The noticeable thing about our meetings has been the comparatively small amount of talk upon tariff questions, and the eagerness with which voters, Republicans and Democrats, have listened to speakers competent to discuss the silver issues. And this is the more remarkable from the fact that the question has been forced to the front by interested parties and designing demagogues.

If the people in three-quarters of the states had been asked one year ago if they had any complaint to make against the government on account of an insufficient amount of money with which to do the business of the country, the universal response would have been "there is nothing to complain of."

It goes without saying that a government which undertakes to dictate the quantity and quality of the circulating medium, is bound to furnish its people with an abundance of money with which to make all necessary exchanges, excepting of course times of general panic, so that every individual having anything to give in exchange can possess himself of all the money needed in the ordinary transactions of life.

A man is in reasonable health when he has nothing about him which suggests a diseased condition of his body. A country is well off, so far as currency is concerned, when there is no friction in the ordinary conduct of business. This was the condition of things a year ago. This would be the condition today were it not for the work of silver bullion owners, reckless debtors and designing politicians.

One year ago there was in the hands of the government and people more than five hundred millions of gold coin and bullion; more than six hundred millions of silver coin and bullion; more than three hundred and fifty millions of one kind and another of government notes; more than two hundred millions of National Bank notes. In round numbers a total of five hundred and fifty millions of paper money and a grand total of more than one billion, seven hundred millions of all kinds of money. This would give nearly twenty-five dollars per capita to each inhabitant of our country; an amount exceeded by but four countries in the civilized nations of the world.

The National Bank circulation, it may be remarked, is of the most elastic character, and one year ago was only about two hundred millions against three hundred and forty-seven millions at an earlier day in the history of national banks. That is, the amount of national bank notes in circulation was but little more than one-half what it had been, or what it might be if the necessities of business called for it.

With such facts, and upon such a condition of things the agitation commenced months ago with the distinct purpose of forcing the issue into the approaching presidential election, and the result has been a discussion as intense as any which has obtained at any time during the history of our government, excepting always the discussion of the slavery question in ante-bellum times.

The outcome of the St. Louis convention upon the money question was one of the great political deliverances of the Republican party, and I desire tonight to thank the Massachusetts delegation for the bold and aggressive manner in which they confronted the advocates of a compromise at the National Convention.

The proposition that our government engage in the free and unlimited coinage of all the silver in the world, is the most audacious and destructive proposition which has been made to our people since the time when our sister states of the South asked leave to depart in peace. I welcome the issue. If we cannot now successfully contend with the lords of the silver mines, reckless men who wish to profit by financial disturbances, and political demagogues of the lowest order, when can we do so? When can we stamp out this heresy if we cannot do it now, with so large a number of patriotic Democrats, forgetting for the time all other issues, standing squarely beside us for the protection of the honor of our country.'

The work of the St. Louis convention is known and read of all men. It had only to reaffirm in language so plain that the most simple could understand it, the principles which have governed the party from the beginning.

As the St. Louis convention inspired with hope the managers of the paralyzed business of the country, the outcome of the Chicago convention was to neutralize all the good effects, resulting from the action of the earlier convention, and to fill with alarm all lovers of constitutional liberty. No sooner had the Chicago convention commenced its sessions than speeches of the most inflammatory and incendiary character were made. In fact, if it had been the purpose of the reactionary party in that convention to produce a state of intellectual intoxication and political debauchery previous to the nomination of a candidate to the presidency and vice presidency, better suited means could not have been used. The result might have been anticipated. William Jennings Bryan, a man with no settled political convictions, was nominated by a convention masquerading in the name of the time-honored Democratic party. And under the senseless cry of more and cheaper money, an ordinary lawyer, a man of undisciplined mind and a head full of vagaries, was nominated to the high office of president of the United States.

But the nomination of Mr. Bryan at Chicago and the endorsement of the free and unlimited coinage of silver, together with a declaration in the direction of free trade, were but a part of the

work of this Popocratic convention. In addition to the general declaration that the pledged faith of the government should be abandoned, and every debt, public or private, paid in debased silver coin, several planks were wrought into the platform of the more revolutionary character calculate to array one class against another and to foster contempt for the law of the land.

It was expected that this convention would attack the Republican tariff policy, a policy absolutely necessary if the obligations of the government of every kind are met, including pension payments, so well earned by our veteran soldiers, and provision for the future extinguishment of the public debt, a policy by which the party stands today as firmly as ever.

But it was not prepared for a bold attack upon our Federal Courts and an intimation that if the Supreme Court did not do the bidding of the Popocrats when they should have control of Congress, the court would be manipulated into obedience or legislated out of existence.

It is not to be wondered that the men whom this convention sought to please, and whose votes were absolutely necessary to the success of the ticket, abhor the term injunction in legal proceedings. It is not a matter of wonder that the leaders of mobs, and men responsible for riotous proceedings, are hostile to the exercise upon the part of courts having equitable jurisdiction of their full power and to the use of the time-honored writ of injunction, to prevent the destruction of property and the sacrifice of human lives.

In half-civilized communities and in some civilized countries, dangerous persons are deprived of their liberty, and in some cases of their lives, before any overt act is committed; but in a country like ours, nothing of this kind can be done; nothing of this kind should be done; but we can, through our courts, enjoin wrong-doers whose plots at the destruction of life and property have taken shape, and whose purposes have become apparent, by the use of the writ of injunction; and in case of disobedience to the order of the court, hold the would-be criminal for contempt of court. What good citizen complains of this? And yet the exercise of this power by our courts has been made the occasion for an attack upon one branch of our government.

The decision of the Supreme Court upon that portion of the revenue bill relating to the income tax is singled out as a special matter of attack in the so-called Democratic platform. We believe that decision to be good law, and the opinion of the court to be founded upon legal principals nowhere questioned, and to be consistent with modern decisions in analogous causes; but if this is not true, if the court has erred, how great is the crime of this assault upon that branch of the government which is the especial protector of the rights of every citizen, its court of last resort.

Closely connected with this bitter arraignment of our court, an arraignment which ought forever to condemn the authors of this platform in the minds of thoughtful people, is the insidious attack upon President Cleveland for one of the most righteous acts of his, or any administration in all our history.

A fierce and bloody riot was raging in the city of Chicago; property was being destroyed, the transportation of the mails was violently interfered with, and commerce between the states was for the time made impossible. The Governor of Illinois could do nothing, or at least did nothing, to quell the disorder. He neither raised his hand against the mob, nor his voice to invoke the assistance of the authorities at Washington.

In this crisis, when the state of Illinois seemed powerless to quell the insurrection, President Cleveland caused these troublers of the peace of Chicago, and to a greater or less extent of the whole land, to feel the mighty power of the armies of the United States, and with one stroke of his pen made wrongdoers understand that even a Democratic administration claimed the right of going into one of the sovereign states of the Union uncalled for, under circumstances like those existing in the case of the Chicago riot.

Shame on a party, shame on the men claiming to represent the Democratic party, who, for the purpose of inflaming the dangerous classes, and arousing them to action in a most serious political contest, will attempt to torture an act of a patriotic President into an insult to a state and a grievous wrong to its people.

This claim in the platform is the assertion of a political heresy which has appeared but little since the close of the Civil War, and thanks to President Cleveland and the good sense of the men who will exercise the rights of suffrage upon November 3, is not likely to appear in the future.

In closing I wish to say that the Chicago platform is to be condemned, not only for its assault upon all the tenets of the Republican party and some of the principles of the Democratic party, but for the dangerous and anarchistic tendency apparent in almost every plank.

The line of honesty has been hewn up to at every point where it has not been crossed; but thanks to the intelligent membership of the Republican party, and the powerful re-inforcement it is receiving from the Democrats all over the land, this platform will only be mentioned after the third of November to illustrate the depth to which demagogues can sink.

The foregoing address was prepared for delivery at the close of the banquet. The body of the hall was filled by members of the club. The platform was occupied by Governor Wolcott who made an address as president of the occasion, and distinguished men representing all the New England states and representatives of the party from New York, several of whom made addresses.

The galleries were crowded to overflowing. The speaker commenced to deliver his formal address, but the enthusiasm manifested by the galleries and the tone of the meeting throughout the vast hall, (it was within a few days of the close of the first McKinley campaign), reaching so high a pitch, he ceased to follow his prepared address and completed his half hour and more in an extemporaneous effort, to the surprise of himself and the satisfaction of his audience as evidenced by the unusual applause and by the reports in the daily papers of the following morning.

DEPARTURE OF FIRST REGIMENT, N. H. VOLS., IN THE WAR WITH SPAIN.

The Regiment went into camp at Concord, May 2d, and left the state for Camp Thomas, Ga., May 17, 1898. New Hampshire was one of the first states to send its full quota into the field.

The Regiment, under command of Col. Robert H. Rolfe, left Camp Ramsdell early in the morning and was reviewed in front of the State House by the Governor, a large delegation of the G. A. R., and other distinguished citizens.

The Governor spoke as follows:

COLONEL ROLFE, OFFICERS AND MEN:

You are about to leave the state as the First Regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers in a just and honorable war.

Three weeks ago the President made a call for a regiment of infantry. Two weeks ago, through the good offices of our National Guard and the well-directed efforts of our citizens generally, men enough were gathered in camp to form this noble regiment of one thousand men, upon which we today look with pride.

Not a drop of human blood in civilized warfare has been shed within the limits of our state. But New Hampshire men in all the wars in which our country has been engaged have been found contending upon almost every battlefield.

The past record of our state is secure. The future is with you and those who may be called to follow you.

The presence here today in a place of honor of these battle-scarred veterans of the Civil War, at once an inspiration and a benediction, is a most powerful reminder of the honorable place New Hampshire gives to those of her citizens, who in time of peril come forward to defend our country.

Colonel Rolfe, in behalf of the people of the state, I commit to you, your officers and men, a great trust. It is nothing less than the honor of the state.

I do this without fear and without reservation.

God bless you !

RETURN OF THE REGIMENT.

The First Regiment in the war with Spain, after a service of three months and fifteen days in camp at Chickamauga Park, Ga., the most trying service the soldier is called upon to endure, but in which its officers and men bore themselves in such manner as to reflect credit upon the state, returned to camp in Concord, and on the 31st day of October, 1898, was mustered out of service.

The Governor again reviewed the Regiment in front of the State House. With him were Brig.-Gen. G. M. L. Lane, Adjt.-Gen. A. D. Dyling, Secretary of State Ezra S. Stearns, Col. Solon A. Carter, state treasurer, Mayor Jason E. Tolles of Nashua, and other well-known citizens of the state.

When the troops halted, the Governor said:

COLONEL ROLFE, OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE FIRST REGIMENT, NEW HAMPSHIRE VOLUNTEERS, IN THE WAR WITH SPAIN:

From this spot, four months ago, I bade you Godspeed on your way to the scene of a just and honorable war. The grand results and glorious achievements of our navy and army are known wherever civilization exists. It has not been your lot to take part in the exciting events of the battlefield. You have been compelled, against your will, to remain in camp and obey the summons which might at any time come to march upon the enemy. It was long ago said "they also serve who only stand and wait," but your standing and your waiting has been a severe trial to the true soldier. From camp, in an almost tropical climate, and subject to the constant and insidious attack of disease, you now return to the state, comparatively speaking, strong and healthy; and we welcome you with as much gratitude and joy as we should had your experience been of a different nature.

When you left the state, I said, speaking for all our people, "Colonel Rolfe, officers and men, I commit to you a great trust. It is nothing less than the honor of the state; I do this without reservation and without fear."

I now take back that trust, assuring you that in every particular, from the time you left New Hampshire until this day of

your return, we have had constant occasion to be proud of our representation in the field; and today, the great heart of the state rejoices that so many of her sons are alive and well, and that the sick, with very few exceptions, were cared for and will be cared for in our own hospitals.

We mourn the death of your brave comrades who have yielded up their lives in defense of the noblest principles, which have ever found lodgement in human hearts. May the fact of your honorable service remain with you through life a pleasant memory, and descend to your children as an honorable inheritance. God bless you.

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

FAST DAY PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR.

{ L. S. }

For more than one hundred years it has been customary for the Chief Magistrate of the State, with the advice of the Council, in the spring-time to appoint a day of FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER, and to recommend that the day be kept as such.

For many years the annual Fast was strictly observed, but of late so large a departure from the primitive custom has been made as to produce, with other considerations, a feeling upon the part of many of our citizens that the day should be dropped from the civil calendar.

Not feeling at liberty to depart from the custom of my honored predecessors without legislative sanction, I do, with the consent of the Council, appoint

THURSDAY, APRIL TWENTY-SECOND,
AS FAST DAY.

Believing that there is an inseparable connection between the acknowledgment of God on the part of the people of the State, and its prosperity and perpetuity, that righteousness exalteth a nation and that sin is a reproach to any people, I do most earnestly recommend to

the people of the State upon that day, in places of public worship assembled, in the home, and even in places of reasonable recreation, to consider their personal relations to Almighty God, their obligations as citizens of the State and as members of families, and their need of Divine assistance in order to the proper execution of every political and private trust.

Given at the Council Chamber in Concord, this twenty-third day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and twenty-first.

GEORGE A. RAMSDELL, *Governor.*

By His Excellency the Governor,

with the advice of the Council,

EZRA S. STEARNS,

Secretary of State.

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

FAST DAY PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR.

{ L. S. }

From the beginning of our history it has been the custom of the Chief Magistrate of the State annually to appoint a day of FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.

In obedience to this usage of the fathers, and in acknowledgment of our dependence, individually and as a State, upon Almighty God, I do, with the advice of the Council, appoint

THURSDAY, APRIL TWENTY-FIRST, FAST DAY,

and recommend that the people of the State assemble in their usual places of public worship, and confessing sins of omission and commission, reverently seek the Divine forgiveness.

It is especially fitting in these days of unusual commotion among the nations of the earth, when notes of war are heard on every hand, that we, as a Christian people, strive earnestly to ascertain the Divine purpose, to the end that in all our thoughts, words; and acts, we may be co-workers with Him of whose throne justice and judgment are the habitation.

Given at the Council Chamber in Concord, this twenty-sixth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and twenty-second.

GEORGE A. RAMSDELL, *Governor.*

By His Excellency the Governor,

with advice of the Council,

EZRA S. STEARNS,

Secretary of State.

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

{ L. S. }

In accordance with a venerable custom, which has come down to us from the beginnings of New England history, and to furnish a special opportunity for the public expression of one of the noblest sentiments of the human heart, I do, with the advice of the Council, appoint

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH,

current, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise.

Let the people of the State assemble in their usual places of worship and acknowledging entire dependence upon Almighty God, give thanks for His abundant mercies.

Let families come together, and under the inspirations of this day of sacred memories renew allegiance one to another.

Let the hand of charity on the part of those having enough and to spare be opened wide to the less favored, to the end that our praises rise unhindered to the common Father of us all.

Given at the Council Chamber in Concord, this second day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and twenty-second.

GEORGE A. RAMSDELL, *Governor*.

By His Excellency the Governor,

with the advice of the Council,

EZRA S. STEARNS,

Secretary of State.

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

{ L. S. }

The year is closing with abundant evidences of the goodness of our God.

The ground has brought forth bountifully for the nourishment of man and beast: religious and educational privileges have been within the reach of all.

War, entered upon and carried on successfully in the interests of a people near at hand, and in a large sense in the interests of all suffering from despotic rule, has caused the government of the United States to be respected not only upon the great continents but in all the islands of the sea.

In consideration of these and countless other blessings vouchsafed by an indulgent Providence, I do hereby, with the consent of the Council, appoint

THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF
NOVEMBER NEXT,

as a day of thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God.

And I recommend that the people of the State upon that day gather in their usual places of public worship

and unitedly offer such expressions of gratitude as shall in some measure express the sincere devotion of the heart.

In obedience to a custom which has been observed for many generations, let the families come together on this day of sacred memories and renew allegiance one to another.

Remembering the abundance with which the year has been crowned, let the day be filled with kindly offices to the poor, so that our praises shall rise like incense to the Giver of all good.

Given at the Council Chamber in Concord, this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and twenty-third.

GEORGE A. RAMSDELL, *Governor.*

By His Excellency the Governor,

with advice of the Council,

EZRA S. STEARNS,

Secretary of State.

ADDRESS OF HON. GEO. A. RAMSDELL

Upon Resolutions Adopted by the Bar at the Decease of Judge Samuel T. Worcester.

At the January term of the supreme court holden at Manchester on the first Tuesday of Janury, 1883. resolutions appropriate to the decease of Judge George Y. Sawyer and of Judge Aaron W. Sawyer, were presented by General A. F. Stevens and by him supported in an eloquent and exhaustive address.

At the close of Mr. Stevens' remarks, Honorable George A. Ramsdell arose and said : Since the last meeting of the bar of Hillsborough county, another honored son of New Hampshire, a resident of this county, and a member of the bar, has passed away.

On the sixth day of December last, at his home in Nashua, surrounded by his kindred, at the ripe age of 78 years, died Samuel Thomas Worcester. Judge Worcester spent thirty years of his active life in the state of Ohio. Since his decease, the bar of Huron county in that state has assembled and passed resolutions of respect to his memory. I have a copy of these resolutions, and although the members of this bar have had no opportunity to take formal action, I will, with the unanimous consent of the brethren present, request the court to adopt the same, and to order that these resolutions be extended upon our records as an expression of the esteem in which we held the distinguished dead.

“Resolved : That the members of the bar of Huron county have heard with profound regret of the death of the late Judge Samuel T. Worcester, who died at his home in Nashua, New Hampshire, on the sixth day of December, 1882.

“Resolved, that in the Hon. Samuel T. Worcester we recognize one who, in all his relations with his fellowmen, whether in public relation or in private life, filled the full measure of his

duty. He was a learned and able jurist, a wise and safe counsellor, a public-spirited, liberal and patriotic citizen, a man of pure life and strict integrity, and he has left us an example worthy of all imitation.

“Resolved, that with the permission of the court, these resolutions be spread upon the records, to there remain as a slight testimonial from the members of the bar of Huron county, to the worth, ability and purity of character of the deceased jurist.”

Judge Worcester was born in Hollis, in the month of August, 1804. He was one of a large family of children, several of whom attained distinction in law and letters; six of the sons sought and obtained a liberal education. His father was accustomed to say, alluding to the stature of his sons: “I sent thirty-six feet of boys through college.”

The Worcester family came of that civilization which settled the Massachusetts coast two and a half centuries ago. We have but recently passed forefathers’ day, and some of us have had something to say in commendation of the pilgrim and puritan character. I will never join the company of captious critics who see so much to condemn in the stern character of our fathers. If we have gained something which they did not possess, I fear our losses have been larger than our acquisitions. Presuming I am addressing loyal sons of these devoted sires, I ask you to analyze the puritan character as much as you please; and when you have made your last analysis, I will present the character of my deceased friend, Samuel T. Worcester, and with great confidence ask you, who knew him well, to say that in all the best characteristics of true manhood he was worthy of his honored ancestry. Were they true to their convictions? Could nothing tempt them from the line of duty? But one answer can be given to these questions. Of our brother it can also be averred:

“He stood four-square to every wind that blew.”

After graduation at Harvard, Judge Worcester studied law with the best practitioners in this vicinity. At that time the state of Ohio was the far West, and offered large inducements to ambitious young men. To that state he went, and for a genera-

tion practiced his profession with great ability and fidelity, never forgetting to be true to his clients, the court, and himself. He served his adopted state in every position the good citizen is called to fill. He has left the impress of his intellect and heart upon the school system as well as the statutes and reports of the supreme court of Ohio. At the bar, in the lower house of the state legislature, in the state senate, upon the bench, in the National House of Representatives, wherever the people of Ohio called him, he was their most able and devoted servant. Those who know most of our physical and mental make-up tell us that as we approach the grand climacteric of life, there comes over us a feeling prompting either to the laying down of life's burdens or to the taking of them up with renewed energy. As Judge Worcester approached his sixty-third year, there came no thought of abandonment of work which might be profitable to his fellowmen; but there did come a desire to return to his native state, there to wait and labor until the work given him to do was done. No man I ever knew had a greater love for kindred and ancestral home than he. Though full of honors and beloved by a large circle of friends and neighbors, he was childless; and his heart yearned for New England, New Hampshire, Hillsborough county, and the companionship of his relatives. Sundering many ties, woven out of years of noble living, he came in 1867, to Nashua, but a few miles from his birthplace. He entered somewhat upon the practice of the law, but having been brought up to common law pleading and for many years having been familiar only with the Ohio code, he did not take kindly to our mixed system of pleading, which has given us all much trouble. Those of us who at all understand it, know that it has come like the substance of our physical being—by slow processes of granulation. But it was fortunate that after returning to New Hampshire he did not give himself unreservedly to the practice of his profession, but while in the maturity of his powers he turned his attention to historical research. Identifying himself with the Historical Society at Nashua, the New Hampshire and the New England Societies, he was a most valued member, and contributed many articles of great interest and

value. His address at the bi-centennial anniversary of the settlement of old Dunstable, his history of the town of Hollis, and his paper entitled "New Hampshire Soldiers at the Battle of Bunker Hill," are perhaps his most important contributions to literature of this class. This last paper is to be published by the New Hampshire Historical Society. It treats in a comprehensive manner of this notable battle, and of the men who bore the heat and burden of the day. Judge Worcester marshals the substance of Washington's, Putnam's, Prescott's, Stark's and Reed's account of the engagement, and in addition gives much information not heretofore in print. Colonel Prescott resided in Pepperell, Mass., but a large part of his farm was within the bounds of the town of Hollis, where many of his friends and relatives had their homes. In addition to the sources of information open to Belknap, Frottingham and Bancroft, Judge Worcester had the benefit of personal contact in his youth with many Revolutionary soldiers who served under Prescott. Hollis furnished a full company for Prescott's Regiment, under Captain Dow. From Judge Worcester's exhaustive paper, it is clear that the number of men engaged at any one time upon this memorable occasion did not exceed fifteen or sixteen hundred; and that of that number more than two-thirds were New Hampshire soldiers. What more shall I say in eulogy of the deceased? He was an able lawyer, an honorable counsellor, a just judge, a right-minded legislator, a good citizen, an honest man, fearing God and eschewing evil. It was my privilege to see him several times during his last sickness. The week before he died he sent for me to make some alterations in his will. By it (made some two years before) he had given his mansion house in equal shares to the Old Ladies' Home at Nashua and the schools of his native town. He informed me that one of his nephews had recently died and left a widow with a large family of children and for this reason, much as he hesitated to do it, he thought it his duty to change his will and divert one-half or more of these legacies. Said he: "Mr. Ramsdell, it is a serious thing for a mother to be left a widow with a family of fatherless children. I must do something for her." I presume Judge Worcester

uttered these words in his usual guttural tones, but as they now come back to me I hear only sounds like the vanishing strains of celestial music. I presume the movements of his head and hands were rough and angular, as was his wont, but now I see only lines of surpassing beauty. Once more I met him. It was the last Sabbath he passed on earth ; his natural eye was growing dim, but his brow was taking on the glow of immortality.

Three days after, the noble soul, throwing aside the earthly encasement in which it had tabernacled for eight and seventy years, went forth to meet his kindred after the flesh for whose companionship he so much yearned, and to meet the larger circle, not less his kindred, the just of all the ages.

EX-SENATOR DANIEL CLARK.

Remarks of Hon. George A. Ramsdell at the time the Hillsborough County Bar were considering the resolutions adopted at the time of the decease of Judge Daniel Clark.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR: It was my good fortune to prosecute and complete my legal studies under two counsellors who afterwards became United States senators, and by singular coincidence laid down life's cares and honors within a few days of each other, at the commencement of the present year (1891). I refer to ex-Senator Wadleigh and to ex-Senator Daniel Clark, whose decease is the occasion of these memorial services.

Leaving Mr. Wadleigh's office in the autumn of 1856, I entered the office of Mr. Clark a short time before he formed the partnership with his honor, Judge Isaac W. Smith, and continued with that firm for some time after my admission to the bar. At this time the two leading law firms in Hillsborough county were Clark & Smith, and Morrison, Fitch & Stanley.

Mr. Clark was in his prime at the age of forty-seven years and had been for a long time retained in almost every jury cause tried in this county, that great advocate, the late George W. Morrison, usually appearing as his opponent. These men settling in Manchester at about the same time, and being of almost exactly the same age, oftentimes engaged in suits in which the feelings and passions of their clients were aroused to the highest pitch, for twenty years worked side by side with mutual esteem. If for any reason Mr. Clark needed some one to take his place in the trial of a cause, he usually called Mr. Morrison, and the courtesy was always reciprocated. I well remember my first interview with Mr. Morrison. It was soon after my entrance into Mr. Clark's office as a student. I had been sent by Mr. Clark to Mr. Morrison's house upon an ordinary business errand. I was a stranger in Manchester, but the gracious manner in which Mr. Morrison received me made me feel entirely at home. He remained my friend until the day of his death, many years after.

Mr. Clark's practice extended to all parts of the state, and he often met such men as Benjamin M. Farley, Daniel M. Christie,

Charles G. Atherton, Ira Perley, Gilman Marston, Franklin Pierce, George Y. Sawyer, and other giants in the law and masters of advocacy, and they all confessed that in him they had "A foe man worthy worthy of their steel."

I had been in Mr. Clark's office but a short time before I was impressed with the fact that I was meeting day by day a man in every respect of no common mold. It has been one of the privileges of my life to know well, for a generation, all the men upon our bench who have given our judicial decisions such authority throughout the land ; the counsellors and advocates who have so largely aided the court in giving so good a reputation to the judiciary of our state ; and yet standing here after the lapse of five and thirty years and the accumulation of so much experience, I find no occasion to revise the judgment of my earlier days.

Mr. Clark had his abundant resources at command. He was no mere case lawyer. His mind was broad enough to grasp the thought of what the law ought to be, and his consultations with intelligent clients in important suits, and his conversations in the preparation of causes for trial were equal to the best of law lectures. Mr. Clark was a high-minded practitioner. He despised shams. He put under his feet every form of artifice unworthy the ideal lawyer. He never sank the man in the attorney. And if all this had not been true he would not have descended to a low level in his profession, for he was above the necessity felt by many common men of manipulating the facts in any given case. He always dealt fairly with the court, the jury, and all honest witnesses ; had the power to argue facts possessed by few of his contemporaries, and easily obtained the confidence of the tribunal before which he appeared. He had a rugged, persuasive eloquence.

In December, 1857, Mr. Clark entered the national senate and remained nearly ten years in by far the most eventful period of our history, commanding the respect of his associates to an unusual degree, making a record for ability, integrity and patriotism never excelled by any representative our state has had upon the floor of the senate, and the more fully this record is known

the more honored and revered will be the name of Daniel Clark.

Mr. Clark had a large heart. I sat at his feet for a year in my early manhood ; served with him four years on the board of trustees of the State Industrial School and was a member with him in 1876 of the Constitutional Convention, of which he was president, and often met him during his long and useful life, and know whereof I speak.

Very early in my connection with the office of Clark & Smith, alluding to the fact that I had but a limited acquaintance in Manchester, he gave me a warm invitation to call at his house on Sunday afternoon whenever it was convenient for me to do so ; and often I availed myself of the opportunity, more than once remaining to dine with him, and always found him as ready to to talk with me upon subjects especially befitting the day as he would have been had I possessed his years and accomplishments.

His long and faithful service as trustee of the Industrial School witness more than can any words of mine, his deep interest in children and youth, who oftentimes through no fault of their own, become wards of the state in this reformatory institution.

Of his career as district judge for a score of years, I need not speak to those who have had personal knowledge of the dignity, ability and impartiality with which he administered that high office.

As an active member of the bar, in the halls of legislation, upon the bench and in the discharge of sacred trusts, he was true to himself, his country and his God, with whom I leave him.

ADDRESS BY HON. GEO. A. RAMSDELL,

President of the Central Congregational Club, at the Annual Summer Outing of the Piscataqua Congregational Club at Hotel Wentworth, Portsmouth, 1895:

MR. PRESIDENT: As we survey this beautiful harbor and all its surroundings, and take in the natural facilities for business here existing, those of us who have eight or nine generations of puritan blood in our veins must for the day forget it and confess that if the settlers of two hundred and seventy years ago had not come for the avowed purpose of fishing and trading, the temptation to do so on their arrival must have been very great. We cannot wonder that the Strawberry Bank Colony was a grief to the men of Plymouth, Boston and Salem. But how much better should we have stood before the same tribunal had it been our fortune to have been born in those times and to have been here as a Congregational Club, attending a Congregational banquet, and, for aught I know, at a Congregational tavern. And yet the Club is the legitimate offspring of puritan principles and polity. I fear that our ancestors would have disowned their posterity in advance if they had foreseen how things would turn out. We are today in all respects clearly within the charter limits of Congregationalism and must make the most of our opportunities, satisfied that if the grand old men of three centuries ago were here today they would approbate everything that is being done under conditions so widely different from those under which they lived. The children of the kingdom should have a reasonable amount of worldly wisdom, and in addition to individual work lay hold of every organization which promises to be helpful in the advancement of its interest.

We have found our Central Congregational Club an agreeable and profitable affair. Our meetings are held in the three larger cities upon the banks of the Merrimack—Nashua, Manchester and Concord—the clergy and the laity mingling as in no other relation. Our membership has increased regularly from the time of the organization of the Club. We have gained much in the direction of an increased acquaintance among our members.

Somehow we can shake hands better than at conference or convention. It is not done so much at the ends of the fingers and there is more blood in it. The tone of our voices is a little different, and the general appearance of a Christian man or woman at a club meeting indicates a higher degree of satisfaction in our profession than in some other places.

Again, we find each other out. Many Congregational laymen are too busy to attend the stated meetings of the denomination, or such is supposed to be the fact by their brethren at home, and they are not often catalogued as delegates. But, somehow, an invitation to join a club, or the prospect of a good dinner, or the opportunity to hear a distinguished speaker upon a popular subject, or the idea of recreation which the word club suggests, brings them out, and we are pleased to find that Mr. Brown or Mr. Smith, besides being a pillar in the state, is a corner-stone in his church at home.

* * * * *

More than this, the Club is needed today to furnish an opportunity for the consideration of themes for which the denomination shall not be responsible. Nothing has been legislated into the belief, or statement of belief, of Congregationalists, I was about to say the Congregational church, (but we have no Congregational church,) and it is equally clear that nothing can or will be legislated out. Each generation makes its own statement of theology. Somehow or other it comes in through the pores as the system needs it. What do we, as Congregationalists, the world over, hold in common and in the same terms with the great men of the reformation except the dogma of the essential Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fact of redemption and salvation through Him? And in both cases we allow each believer to assimilate the fact and build his theology upon it in such manner as satisfies his reason and conscience prompted by God's ever-present Spirit. We recognize the intimate connection between right thinking and right doing, but where the life seems to be governed by the principles of the Gospel it is reasonable to assume that the unwritten creed is not widely dif-

ferent from what it should be. When and where have all existing changes come in? "The wind bloweth where it listeth and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth." I say it reverently. So cometh the theology of the most devout souls.

The pulpit and the Sunday school should be conservative as against radicalism, and yet if there is anything in the higher criticism or the new theology worth talking about let us do the talking ourselves and not turn it over to those who care nothing for the old or the new theology, and but little for religion itself.

Do not think for a moment that I am advocating the turning of the Club into a debating society. That is the last thing to be done. If we are firmly grounded upon the doctrines to which I have alluded, and recognize the great facts of which I have spoken, there is nothing upon which we wish to take a vote. Principal Fairbarn has recently said: "There is only one schism—that of separation in soul from the great Head of the Church." I repeat the words of this great servant of God: "There is only one schism—that of separation in soul from the great Head of the Church."

The Club can be utilized for a better purpose than discussion to be followed by a showing of hands. After using it as a social help and as an opportunity to compare notes among ourselves, men of rare scholarship and piety can and should be called in to tell us what they have wrought out in the exercise of the highest intellectual endowment, and what their eyes have caught sight of in some exalted vision vouchsafed only to the pure in heart.

It is a glorious privilege to live in the last quarter of the nineteenth century; yes, in its last decade, when the wit of man in everything material seems to have exhausted itself; when no scholarship is too profound, no intellectual labor too great, no experience too sacred to be laid upon the altar of our common Christian faith.

Three courses are open to us in these stirring times; to lie anchored to the past; to drift with the current; to be actors among living men. Which course shall we pursue?

ADDRESS OF HON. GEO. A. RAMSDELL

Before the Milford Historical and Genealogical Society, at the Dedication of a Memorial Stone Near Jones' Crossing at the Northwest Corner of the Township of Old Dunstable, the Northwest Corner of the Charlestown School Farm and the Northwest Corner of the Extinct Town of Monson, August 21, 1895.

MR. PRESIDENT: Less than forty years from the time of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Jonathan Danforth, of Billerica, Mass., stood upon the spot we now occupy, and fixed his gaze upon yonder hill. He may not have been the first white man to look upon it, but if anyone, save the Indians and individuals of unknown races preceding them, had ever seen it, there is no record of it, and tradition throws no light upon the question.

Why was Danforth here, in the autumn of 1660, with one or two assistants? A year before, the general court of Massachusetts, at that time claiming jurisdiction of a large part of what is now New Hampshire, granted to the town of Charlestown for the benefit of its schools, this magnificent tract of land to the East which, according to a plan made in the year 1748, and now a matter of record in the Registry of Deeds in Hillsborough county, contained an area of eleven hundred and thirty-nine acres, and commissioned that noted and trusted surveyor, Jonathan Danforth, of whom it was said at the time of his decease:

"He rode the circuit; chained great towns and farms
To good behavior; and by well-marked stations
He fixed their bounds for many generations."

Danforth was directed by the general court of Massachusetts to lay out in this particular plot one thousand acres. He had laid out the day before, for Mrs. Anna Cole, five hundred acres, covering the larger part of your beautiful village, and extending westward so as to include the farm of Matthias F. Crosby. The old surveyor took in at a glance the situation of this intervale and upland, and determined that all of the intervale should go

to the town of Charlestown, with sufficient upland and woodland to properly accommodate it, provided liberal chaining could do it. He made return as follows:

"By virtue of an order of the general court, laid out for the use of the schools of Charlestown, one thousand acres of land, more or less, in the wilderness, on the western side of Merrimack river, at a place commonly called by the Indians, Souheganucke, beginning at the foot of a great hill, and so extending eastward about two miles down said river, and bounded with the river north, and by land laid out for Mrs. Anna Cole on the east, the wilderness elsewhere surrounded, according to marked trees: all which are sufficiently bounded with C. and is more fully demonstrated by a plat taken of the same."

Danforth had never seen this hill before. It had no name, so far as he knew, and he simply calls it in his return "a great hill." Compared with anything in the tract he was bounding, it was a great hill.

Fourteen years go by, and again Jonathan Danforth stands upon this spot; this time with a weightier commission in his pocket. He has been commissioned by the commonwealth of Massachusetts, which had made the grant the year before, to lay out the grand old town of Dunstable, grand in its territorial extent, more than two hundred square miles; grand in the part which its citizens took in defending Massachusetts during protracted Indian wars; grand in the fact that it was the parent town, from which have sprung a score of towns in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, all of which have aided in giving name and fame to the states in which they lie.

Danforth was commissioned, among other things, to see that all of the Souhegan farms on the south side of the river were included in the grant of Dunstable, and he determined to make the northwest corner of the Charlestown school farm the like corner of the town he was commissioned to lay out. The west line of the Charlestown school farm was not a due north and south line, but bore considerably to the east after leaving its northwest boundary. Danforth, in order to make sure that the entire grant of the Charlestown school farm should be included in Dunstable, decided when at the northwest boundary of the

Charlestown school farm, which he marked as the northwest corner of the town of Dunstable, to make a bold push by a due south course to Groton line.

Danforth, upon his second visit, found the same great hill which he had fixed upon as a nameless monument fourteen years before, but something had happened during this interval which had given the hill a name, and in his return to the state of Massachusetts in the laying out of old Dunstable, he speaks of it as "hill called Dram-cup-hill." What was the origin of the name? It certainly is not from an Indian source; and we shall never know how it came to be thus called; history is silent, and tradition gives us no information. I have met the word in some connections where it was spelled cap for cup, and reading "Dram-cap-hill;" but whatever its origin, the hill, by the name of Dram-cup-hill, will be remembered until everything connected with the renowned name of Dunstable perishes from the minds of men.

The territory immediately west of the northwest boundary of Dunstable remained ungranted until the year 1735, when Massachusetts, to make amends to the town of Groton for a loss of territory included in the charter of Littleton, made an additional grant to the town of Groton which was known as Groton Gore. This grant was of triangular shape, one side of the triangle resting on the line of old Dunstable and one of its angles radiating from the common northwest corner of the Charlestown school farm and the town of Dunstable. The year before, or in 1734, Massachusetts had granted to the town of Duxbury, in aid of its school fund, what was known until the incorporation of the town of Milford, as the Duxbury school farm. It contained five hundred acres and was situated on the north side of the river opposite the famous northwest corner of which we have been speaking, extending one hundred and thirty rods above it and two hundred and seventy rods below it. This farm was bounded by the Souhegan river on the south, and Souhegan West, or the town of Amherst on the east, and by unappropriated lands upon the west and north, and had an average width of two hundred rods.

Until the year 1741, the boundary lines of the Province of New Hampshire were in dispute. Massachusetts claimed that the division boundary between that state and New Hampshire was defined by a line drawn from a point on the Atlantic coast three miles north of the Merrimack river, and running on the northerly and easterly side of the river, and at a distance of three miles from it to its head waters; thence due west to the Connecticut. This covered all the territory included in the present limits of the county of Hillsborough, excepting the town of Pelham and such portions of the town of Hudson as lie more than three miles from the Merrimack river. It also included the whole of Cheshire county and the larger part of the present limits of Merrimack and Sullivan counties.

As early as 1638, in support of its claim, the Massachusetts colony ordered a commission to ascend the Merrimack river and to lay out the line three miles northward of the most northernmost part of the Merrimack. This commission placed the northern line at a great pine tree three miles north of the union of the Winnepiseogee and Pemigewasset rivers, then considered the head of the Merrimack, but in reality it was but the fork of the river.

In 1652, another commission was sent out by the Massachusetts colony "for the better discovery of the northern line of our patent," which decided that the Winnepiseogee branch was the true Merrimack, and followed it to the lake which bears the same name. At this place they found a well-shaped boulder, (exactly at the head of the river,) seemingly inviting the inscription which they put upon it, two hundred and forty years ago.

The commissioners cut the name of Governor Endicott and their own initials in deep letters upon the tablet and departed never to return. So far as known, this monument was seen by no white man for a period of one hundred and eighty-one years, and gradually became covered with mud and afterward with water, so that its discovery in 1833 was a matter of astonishment to the people of the state. Ten years ago the rock was raised from its bed of sand to a point above high water mark in the lake, and later, in 1892, a substantial covering of Concord granite

was placed upon it. This stone, probably the oldest public monument in our state, if not in New England, has, in addition to the general interest its discovery called forth, a specific interest as marking the extreme limits of the Massachusetts claim.

New Hampshire claimed for her southern boundary a line produced due west from the same point on the ocean. By this claim, the towns of Pelham, Hudson, Litchfield, Nashua, Merrimack, Hollis, Amherst and other towns lying within some fourteen miles of latitude were conceded to be in Massachusetts, and had not before 1740 been regarded by any party as in part the territory of the Province of New Hampshire. Previous to 1740, a board of commissioners, acting under the royal authority, had established the eastern or Maine boundary, but failing to agree upon the southern line the King himself terminated the controversy in favor of New Hampshire, fixing the present boundary and granting the state a much larger territory than had been claimed.

The decision, though somewhat arbitrary and not in accordance with the prayer of either party, was founded upon sound suggestions. By the letter of the grant to Massachusetts, it would seem that her claim was good, but it was urged by the King's council that when the Massachusetts grant was made the country was unexplored, and the course of the Merrimack was supposed to be substantially at right angles with the ocean its entire length; and that it would be just and equitable between the parties to follow the river so far as its general course was from the west to the east, and no farther.

This act of the King annexing so much territory, before that time under the government of Massachusetts, to the Province of New Hampshire, was not satisfactory to the people so virtually annexed. It was very naturally urged by the people, who were thus made to attorn to New Hampshire, that it was unfair to sever them from a more powerful province against their remonstrance and annex them to a weaker, at a time when it seemed there would be no end of Indian wars and depredations.

Upon the settlement of a question which had troubled the province for the larger part of a century, the towns which had a corporate existence under Massachusetts were re-chartered by

the Province of New Hampshire, and new towns were formed from those portions of existing towns cut off from Massachusetts.

The line as established by this decision was marked upon the ground, but by an unfortunate mistake in making allowance for the variation of the magnetic needle, after the line left the Merrimack river, the boundary stones were placed to the north of an east and west line, so that Massachusetts gained the contents of a triangle commencing at a point at the easterly end and gradually increasing until the Connecticut river was reached.

Efforts to correct the line as marked upon the ground have been made by New Hampshire, but without success; and our state has recently acquiesced in the old line by formal act of the legislature. The effect of the new boundary line was to rend old Dunstable in twain by an east and west line and to leave what remained in New Hampshire, a long and narrow tract of land. This state of things existed until the year 1746, when the westerly part of the disfigured town was divided and the town of Hollis formed of the southwest part, and the town of Monson of the northwest part, and making the northwest corner of the new town of Monson identical with that of old Dunstable and the Charlestown school farm. After the settlement of the state line in 1741, the name Groton Gore drops from our history, and the ungranted lands west of old Dunstable and the Duxbury school farm came gradually to be known on both sides of the river as the Mile Slip; the territory for the larger part of the length of the tract being about one mile in width. It was never granted by state authority, but was deeded from time to time to settlers by the Masonian proprietors, and is recognized in the New Hampshire state records by the name which had gradually become attached to the tract.

Caleb Jones, before the Masonian proprietors had made an aggressive claim to the Mile Slip, had squatted upon a portion of it adjacent to the Charlestown school farm. Upon an old plan of the Mile Slip, made by the Masonian proprietors soon after the settlement of the state line, a rectangular space, two or three times as long as wide, is marked off with its northeast corner resting on the northwest corner of old Dunstable, and named

Jones' Claim. I have not followed that matter up, and cannot today affirm that Jones successfully maintained his claim against the Masonian proprietors without the payment of some purchase money, but it is certain that he held the land and that his descendants today own a part or all of it.

The town of Charlestown held this magnificent tract of land to the east of us, doing nothing in connection with it except to obtain from the Indians a deed of release executed with all the formalities of law and recorded in the records of Middlesex county, until the year 1743, when Benjamin Hopkins, of Billerica, Mass., became the purchaser at the price of three hundred and seventy-five pounds, and as early as 1745 had erected a bullet-proof residence at a point near the brook about forty rods north of the residence of the late Luke Smith, and about the same distance from the line of the farm of the late William Ramsdell. The location was well marked and often visited by me in my boyhood. Hopkins laid off for his son Ebenezer one hundred and five acres, now the Ramsdell farm. He then laid off for himself two hundred and thirty-seven acres, bounding it on the east and west by due north and south lines. The east line of the Charlestown school farm bore one degree to the west as you went from its northeastern to its southeastern corner, but Benjamin Hopkins must have his magnificent farm inclosed by parallel lines and those lines must run due north and south.

Hopkins sold in 1748 to Nathan Hutchinson, one of the first settlers of the town, the farm now owned by Edwin D. Searles, and located two other sons upon different portions of his purchase. He also built a saw-mill on the brook which crosses the road near the Tucker place, and flowed the highway at what is now Richardson's Crossing, much to the disgust of his neighbors. The Monson people at one time voted to take a course of law with Mr. Hopkins, for the damage he was doing to the road this side of the dugway, but in some way the *Governor*, as he was familiarly called, satisfied the people, and there wasn't any law suit.

Although the Indian tribes had at this time commenced their retreat westward, they were still numerous to the north, and

many places suffered severely during the settlement of this part of old Dunstable, but there is no evidence that upon the Charlestown school farm, or its immediate vicinity, any deeds of violence were committed.

The inhabitants of the Charlestown school farm were good liveries, and Colonel Joshua Burnham, after he became possessed of the old Jesse Hutchinson place, a hundred years ago, more or less, opened a store in the ell of the house and put out a sign with the then inviting words, "Rum sold here." Colonel Burnham had many customers on this side of the river, and with the aid of some of them, built a bridge across the stream so that the Charlestown school farm folks could the more easily reach his store at all seasons of the year. I do not know what there was so attractive about Colonel Burnham's rum above that to be obtained at the village, but certain it is that people on both sides of the stream, in the year 1809, caused an article to be inserted in the warrant at the annual town meeting, "to see if the town will lay out a road from the gate near N. May's house across the intervals on the line of the easterly side of land of Daniel Hopkins across the river, to a gate near Joshua Burnham's." I don't know just when Burnham built his bridge. I don't know that it was standing in 1809, but it is very evident that this was an organized effort to put the grand old men of the Charlestown school farm and its vicinity, many of whom we remember, into communication by a substantial throughfare with Colonel Burnham's store.

Of all the eccentric men residing in this neighborhood, Caleb Jones, a resident upon this spot, was pre-eminent. He came as a young man of twenty years, from Wilmington, Mass., and entered into the employment of Hopkins upon his big farm. After serving Hopkins less than seven years, he was given his daughter Deborah in marriage. His farm and home was made up of Mile Slip land and a slice of the Charlestown school farm adjoining. Among his oddities was the planting and cultivating of a cherry tree for the purpose of furnishing boards for his own coffin. When it had attained sufficient size, he had it cut, and from it a coffin made which he kept for many years in anticipation of his death and burial.

It is evident that the bed of the Souhegan river at this point has varied but little, if any, with the lapse of centuries, and that the highway as now trodden between the river and Dram-cup-hill has been the only passageway used by white men upon this side of the river as they were passing to the west, or by the Red men before them. In connection with the old ford-way, which existed here from the earliest times until the building of the present bridge, in 1872, it was and has been a thoroughfare of unusual interest. In addition to its use for the transportation of an immense tonnage of the products of the sea and land, it has been a war-path of no inconsiderable note. The memorial stone which we are dedicating upon this beautiful August afternoon, in the presence of the Milford Historical and Genealogical Society and numerous friends, stands, in order that it may be seen and the inscription thereon read by all passersby, a few rods south of the stones in the bank of the river, undoubtedly placed there by Surveyor Danforth himself.

In all the alarms of the French and Indian wars, during which attacks almost without number were made upon our frontier in the neighborhood of Lake Champlain, volunteers and regulars from the southern part of New Hampshire invariably passed along this narrow way. As late as 1760, memorable for its campaign against Canada, Col. John Goffe mustered a regiment in Litchfield of seven hundred and sixty-nine men, camping May 28th upon what is now the public square in Milford, and on the 29th day of May passed under the shadow of this hill on his way to Crown Point.

In the summer of 1777, when Burgoyne was moving on Ticonderoga, two companies under Major Abbott of Wilton marched for Lake Champlain. Stephen Peabody of Milford commanded one company, with John Bradford for first lieutenant. In the ranks were such men as Josiah Crosby, Jr., Caleb Jones, Stephen Crosby, John Wallace, William Crosby and Ebenezer Hutchinson. In Captain Ballard's company were such men as Nathan Hutchinson, Asa Lewis, Stephen Blanchard, Daniel Parker, and three Burnhams—Israel, David and Jonathan—and they all passed through this gap in response to the call for volunteers.

In August, of the same year, when New Hampshire sent three regiments to the defense of Vermont, all of which were at the Battle of Bennington, Col. Moses Nichols marched his regiment, one of the three, through this notch. He had with him as captain of one of the companies, John Bradford. David Wallingford and John Mills were lieutenants in two of the companies. Stephen Peabody, who acted as aide to General Stark during the battle, with rank of major, receiving information of his appointment but a few hours before Nichols moved his regiment, probably joined the regiment at this ford-way.

I cannot recall the scenes to which I have alluded without a feeling of satisfaction that I am permitted this afternoon to call to mind in your presence the names of men who have preceded us and who, during their lives, for the most part long, did the state much service.

If time permitted, we would all gladly ascend yonder hill; and then, if we had the power, roll back the wheels of time exactly one hundred and fifty years. The prospect is grand now; in some respects it must have been grander then. Where now a prosperous town appears, with hundreds of farm houses, then but three, or at most four, human habitations could be seen from the top of Dram-cup-hill; Hopkins' house, Peabody's house, half a mile across the river, Colonel Shepard's house, in what is now the village, and possibly John Burns' house upon the Brookline road. From the outlook of Dram-cup-hill has been witnessed not only the settlement of the Charlestown school farm, but the beginning and the growth of a town, so creditable to the state of New Hampshire and to the people from time to time making up its population. Standing upon yonder summit, the inevitable conclusion is forced upon the mind that the Souhegan river, upon whose banks we now stand, and its broad intervalles upon either side, lie at the foundation of the material prosperity of this town.

